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Treasury, Histadrut continue negotiating

By DAVID HARRIS

The Histadrut last night published details of its plans for Sunday's general strike, despite an agreement with the Treasury to continue negotiating to prevent industrial action.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz failed to reach a compromise after two hours of talks last night, but both promised to try to avert the disruptions, scheduled to begin Sunday at 6 a.m.

"We talking to one another like a man to his friend, and we'll continue negotiations tomorrow morning," said

Neeman as he emerged from his meeting with Peretz. "With the help of God, we'll reach a *k'tiva vehatima tova* [i.e., all will be signed, sealed, and delivered]."

Peretz was less positive. "I am not that optimistic," he said. "We'll make every effort to prevent the strike."

Neeman and Peretz are scheduled to meet again this morning at 9:30.

Neeman flew home a day early from the International Monetary Fund/World Bank annual meeting in Hong Kong to seek an agreement with Peretz.

Before the meeting, Neeman held a

news conference at which he said he is prepared to talk in general about the problems faced by pension funds, which have built up hundreds of billions of shekels of actuarial debt.

Neeman also indicated he is in favor of establishing a public commission of inquiry which would examine all issues relating to pensions.

Neeman appealed to the public not to support the strike. Three times in the last week Treasury officials have invited the Histadrut to talk, and three times it refused, said Neeman.

The central argument between the government and Histadrut has shifted

in recent days from the planned structural changes in the economy and privatization program, to a pension agreement signed between former Labor finance minister Avraham Shohat and Peretz, just before last May's general election.

The six-line agreement, hand-written and signed on a piece of writing paper, attempted to give pensions based on an entire working career similar weight to those based on the most recent three years in a job. Pensions based on the last three years are generally higher, based as they are on what are generally the highest salaries of a person's career.

Entitled "Agreement between the Finance Minister and the chairman of the Histadrut on 10.5.96," the document reads:

"People insured in pension funds to which the wage system applies (the averages system), who retired or will retire during the next five years (commencing 30.10.96), will be entitled to receive an addition to their pension equal to 60% of the difference (if there is a difference) between the pension they are entitled to according to the averages system and the pension to which they would have been entitled were it calculated according to the sys-

tem of previous years."

Peretz claims this document is legally binding, but Neeman said to the best of his knowledge it was never approved by the government.

"This paper cannot be applied," said Neeman. "It's a paper that discriminates among pension-holders."

Hearing this comment before entering his meeting with Neeman, Peretz said he very much hopes journalists did not hear correctly, because if this is the case then there would definitely be a strike on Sunday.

See HISTADRUT, Page 4

Planned strike list

- By DAVID HARRIS**
- The Histadrut gave notice last night that more than 500,000 of its members will participate in a general strike beginning at 6 Sunday morning.
- The following workers will be striking:
- 50,000 civil servants.
 - 80,000 workers in 264 local authorities.
 - 50,000 bank workers.
 - 7,000 Postal Authority employees.
 - 13,000 staffers at the Israel Electric Corporation will work but only on a Shabbat schedule.
 - 8,000 Bezeq workers, meaning that 144, 166, 188, and 199 services will operate on a Shabbat schedule.
 - 2,500 Mekorot workers.
 - 1,000 Magen David Adom ambulance staff, who will only work in emergencies.
 - 1,250 firefighters will only offer emergency services.
 - 4,300 staffers at Egged and 1,200 at Dan, together with Beersheba's urban transport workers.
 - 1,300 railway workers.
 - 2,400 Airports Authority employees, who will strike from 7 a.m.
 - 5,000 at El Al.
 - 30,000 Kupat Holim Clalit workers. Clinics and hospitals will offer only emergency services. Dialysis, oncology, and urgent operations will be available as normal.
 - 10,000 administrative and ancillary staff in 30 state hospitals and at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv.
 - 15,000 nurses in state hospitals and at Ichilov will offer skeleton service only.
 - 2,500 public health nurses will only offer emergency services.
 - 40,000 military industry employees.
 - 12,700 Histadrut workers.
 - 15,000 workers in agriculture.
 - 60,000 electronics, electronics workers, and metalworkers.
 - 20,000 textile workers.
 - 50,000 in the food industry.
 - 13,000 higher education staff.
 - 3,000 employees in national institutions, including the Jewish Agency and Jewish National Fund.
 - 1,200 Nesher employees.
 - All employees in the fuel industry.
 - Teachers, including those in kindergartens, but not in special education.
 - Staff at the ports.
- Today, only local authorities will be striking.



Tunnel riots anniversary
Masked Palestinians ride atop a van guarded by Palestinian policemen during yesterday's demonstration in Rafah, marking the first anniversary of the deaths of 80 Palestinians in riots that followed the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit. Similar demonstrations were held throughout the Gaza Strip. (Reuters)

Inquiry uncovers intelligence, operational faults in botched raid

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The military committee investigating the failed naval commando raid into south Lebanon three weeks ago has apparently uncovered deficiencies by intelligence and operations officers. But these failings did not lead to the deaths of the 11 commando and a doctor sent to help the wounded, military sources said.

Six navy officers, including OC Naval Intelligence Vice-Adm. S. S. have been summoned to testify before the inquiry, headed by Maj. Gen. Gabi Ofir. The other officers include the intelligence officer of the commando unit, a senior operations officer, and

three intelligence officers. They are to begin testifying on Sunday.

Navy officers take lawyers, Page 5

Military sources stressed that there was no link between the alleged deficiencies and the botched raid.

"Even if the operation had been successful and an inquiry was held, these six people would still have been summoned for questioning," a senior IDF officer said.

The sources also said that the summonses were not as serious as a warning letter issued in civilian inquiries, because they could be nullified if the committee was convinced by the officers' testimony that they were wrongly issued.

The Ofir committee is reasonably certain that the commando squad tripped a booby-trap set near the village of Ansariya, and were not initially decimated by a detonation of their own explosives. It has also reportedly determined that the commandos acted without fault.

The panel is expected to submit its findings in 10 days, sources said.

US slams Netanyahu over Efrat expansion

MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MARILYN HENRY, and news agencies

Rejecting Israel's insistence it is acting within its rights, US President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright yesterday criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for announcing that more homes would be built in Efrat.

Albright noted she had requested a "time-out" in building in the territories to improve prospects for negotiations with the Palestinians.

"I am calling on the prime minister to honor the time-out," she said.

In a statement quoted by Israel Radio, Clinton supported Albright's condemnation, saying that at this stage in the peace process, it is essential to create an atmosphere in which the two sides can further the negotiations.

Albright talked to Netanyahu on the telephone Wednesday only hours before he told high school students at a 30th anniversary celebration of the renewed settlement at Gush Etzion, that 300 new homes would be built in Efrat and that the Jewish presence in the West Bank would grow.

According to Channel 2, Albright was furious that the prime minister did not alert her to his planned announcement.

"One doesn't take things personally," Albright said yesterday in New York, but added: "It was regrettable this action was taken. We have made it quite clear this particular building is not at all helpful."

During her phone conversation with Netanyahu she had reportedly told him he was partially responsible for the current deadlock with the Palestinians.

Almost simultaneously, Foreign Minister David Levy was telling a handful of reporters at his hotel a mile away that building new homes in existing West Bank settlements is legal and that the Clinton administration would eventually agree.

Levy, in New York for the opening session of the UN General Assembly, said the construction announced by Netanyahu simply

accommodates "natural growth" in Efrat.

While Levy praised Albright's peace-making efforts, he challenged her criticism of Netanyahu's announcement.

"We find ourselves in a situation where even if we sneeze, people

PA clamps down on Hamas, Page 2

might concede that it's legal, but we would still be told it's provocative," Levy said.

He would not speculate how the new dispute would affect Israel's position at the UN, which was battered last spring when Israel was condemned in emergency sessions of the General Assembly over its plans to build at Har Homa. The US twice vetoed Security Council resolutions on the same topic.

Levy, instead, assailed the Palestinians for a continuing campaign, conducted in international arenas, calling for sanctions against Israel and for freezing relations.

"Peace cannot be achieved through sanctions," he said, adding, "There is no sanction that can force Israel to endorse any policy that would endanger our country."

State Department spokesman James Rubin rejected Levy's contention the construction is legal under the 1993 and 1995 Oslo agreements with the Palestinians, which bar new settlements.

"The issue is not whether it is legal or not legal," he said, but the impact it had on the environment for negotiations.

US Ambassador Martin Indyk declared the US administration is unhappy with Netanyahu's announcement.

In an interview with Channel 2, Indyk said Netanyahu's declaration is disappointing and undermines the efforts being made at this moment by Albright in the General Assembly to prevent hostile resolutions against Israel.

Indyk met with Netanyahu yesterday to hear his explanation that construction in Efrat constitutes a

continuation of the policy of the previous government. But Channel 2 correspondent Immanuel Rosen said Indyk was not convinced, as he indicated in the interview, which will be broadcast in full tonight.

Earlier yesterday, Indyk denied that Albright had sent Netanyahu a letter reprimanding him for Israel's policy vis-a-vis the Palestinians and demanding that he take "difficult decisions." Both Ma'ariv and Yediot Aharonot reported yesterday that Albright had sent such a letter to Netanyahu.

Palestinian officials condemned Netanyahu's announcement charging it was "another fresh nail in the coffin of Israeli-PLO talks."

Palestinian cabinet minister Hanan Ashrawi called the housing plan "a dangerously irresponsible position, bordering on a policy of insanity that is going to turn the whole region into another cycle of conflict and violence."

Returning from Washington, cabinet secretary Dan Naveh dismissed the criticism as "exaggerated" and a "tempest in a teacup."

Labor Party head MK Ehud Barak declared "it is not the right time" to build, but added that the government retains the right to build.

Government Press Office director Moshe Fogel said that the units mentioned by Netanyahu are to be built on Givat Hazayit, where construction is already taking place. The plans, he said, had been approved by the Labor government and fell within the current government policy of strengthening existing settlements.

Deputy head of the Gush Etzion Regional Council Yeshayahu Yehieli charged that US administration officials had not done their homework.

Yehieli said council officials are drawing up an urgent cable they plan to send to Albright informing her that the construction Netanyahu mentioned had been authorized by the previous government.

Yehieli charged that it is inconceivable that the US should interfere with local policy.

See US SLAMS, Page 17

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Hamas: Israel tried to murder our representative

AMMAN - Hamas said two Canadians tried to attack a top party official here yesterday with an "electrical device" and described the attack as an assassination attempt by Israel.

But Jordan dismissed the incident as merely a "quarrel" between two Canadian tourists and the driver of Khalid Masha'al, the head of Hamas's political bureau, which plans the group's strategy.

Hamas representative Mohammed Nazzal told The Associated Press that one Canadian "tried to hit Masha'al with an electric device, but was stopped by one of the bodyguards." He did not give details.

Later yesterday, Masha'al was taken to hospital after "he became dizzy and vomited several times," said his wife. "He was very sick and is undergoing general physical checkup."

It was not clear whether Masha'al's sickness was related to the alleged attack, which Hamas said happened as the official and his three sons were outside his Amman office. A Hamas statement said the two alleged attackers were caught by another bodyguard and Masha'al was unhurt.

However, Hamas vowed to hit

Israeli targets inside and outside the country over what it said was an attempt to kill Masha'al.

"The Zionist enemy will pay a river of blood for one single drop of blood from one of our fighters," it said in a leaflet faxed to Reuters.

"We consider this criminal act is the beginning of the confrontation outside the borders of the homeland and the real start of unmerciful war against the Israeli interests in various places of the world," it said.

"The coming days will show the nature of the thunderous Kassam response to this condemned crime," said the leaflet, signed by Hamas's military wing, Izzadin Kassam.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak refused to comment on any aspect of the Hamas statement.

Jordanian Minister of State for Information Samir Mutawae said Masha'al was not present during the incident, which he described as an argument between Masha'al's driver and two Canadian tourists. He said all three were injured.

But the Hamas leaflet said Jordan was trying to give "cover to the attempt of assassination."

(News agencies)

PA continues arrests of Hamas activists

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority security forces yesterday continued their roundup of Hamas activists, although several senior members of the movement have left their homes and dropped out of sight.

But PA officials refused to publicly acknowledge that they were mistaken in their insistence that the suicide bombers who attacked Jerusalem over the summer came from abroad. One senior official continued to assert that the bombers were foreigners.

So far, about 200 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists have been detained and 16 Hamas charities closed in PA sweeps over the past two weeks.

In Kalkilya, PA police arrested more than a dozen Hamas activists. Palestinian sources said those detained were Islamic political activists or Hamas members during the intifada.

Hamas sources said they fear the arrests will continue up the command chain of the organization. Hamas leaders last night did not answer phone calls to their homes and sources said some had gone underground.

The new wave of arrests came after Israeli security officials presented evidence to the PA that identified the suicide bombers as four residents of the Nablus-area village of Azira Shamalya. A fifth suicide bomber has not been identified.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz confirmed yesterday that Arab residents of east Jerusalem

were definitely involved in assisting the suicide bombers, whose two attacks in the capital this summer killed 20 and wounded hundreds.

Hefetz said police and security forces continue to receive warnings of further terrorist attacks, which he added could take place in areas where previous attacks occurred. He stressed that it is impossible to prevent suicide attacks, despite all the precautions in effect, without shutting down the entire country.

Meanwhile, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and other PA officials continued to deny responsibility for the suicide bombings. Arafat was quoted by Palestinian

newspapers as noting the bombers came from Area B, where Israel continues to have security control. Israeli security sources said many of the latest PA arrests were not those of terrorist suspects sought by Israel, but were low-level political activists.

As PA security forces continued their arrests, IDF soldiers maintained a curfew on Azira Shamalya, a village of 8,500 that was active during the intifada. Residents say hundreds of villagers have been arrested by the army.

"It's wrong to impose collective punishments against all the residents," said a 39-year-old taxi driver who called himself Ahmed. "The man who killed [Yitzhak

Rabin was punished, not his family. Nobody destroyed his house. This insulting treatment is accorded only to us."

A Palestinian activist said he expects the arrests to continue until the IDF learns the identity of the fifth suicide bomber.

Nasser Hamadneh, 28, and the father of three, said villagers will not tolerate an extended closure. "If the closure continues we will attack the IDF checkpoint with stones," he said. "We weren't afraid during the intifada and we're not afraid now."

Hamadneh said he supports more suicide bomb attacks against Israel, but he and other villagers dismissed the allegations that the

latest attackers came from Azira. Some asserted that two of the four identified as suicide bombers were seen after the July 30 bombing in Mahaneh Yehuda.

Fawaz Jarara, the uncle of Mouyaa Jarara, one of those identified as a suicide bomber, said he does not support such attacks. "The only result is the destruction of both peoples [Palestinian and Israeli] and does not have any advantage," he said. "But if what the Israeli army says is true, then blockading the town doesn't achieve anything." Jarara was one of four brothers and studied agriculture at the Al Arouh Institute near Hebron. He was arrested by the PA Police when the IDF redeployed in the West Bank in 1995, but escaped with four others after six months in prison.

The fifth bomber is believed to be Mahmoud Abu Hanud, 34, the alleged recruiter and ring-leader of the suicide squads. His father told The Jerusalem Post yesterday that his son has been sought by Israel since 1995. "Mahmoud was not part of any [Palestinian] organization and it's unthinkable that he is one of the suicide bombers," he said.

One of Abu Hanud's brothers said the family has not been in contact with Mahmoud for more than two years. "If he was killed during the suicide attacks, that is his choice," the brother said. "Regardless, he is a very careful person and does not fall easily into such mistakes. But if it is true then it's not a shame."

Margot Dudkevitch contributed to this report.

PA secretary offers to resign

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

The Israeli evidence presented to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat that the suicide bombers came from the territories has led to an offer of resignation by PA secretary-general Tayeb Abdul-Rahim, who had insisted that the suicide bombers came from abroad.

PA sources said Abdul-Rahim offered his resignation during a meeting of the Palestinian National Security Council. He said he took responsibility for disseminating information that has now been proven incorrect.

Abdul-Rahim was said to have asserted that the information that the bombers came from abroad was relayed by Hamas leaders as well as from reliable local and international sources. As a result, Abdul-Rahim said he no longer wants to be responsible for the PA dialogue with Hamas.

"Despite the fog that envelopes the Israeli story regarding the identity of those who executed the suicide bombings, I take all responsibility as part of my position," Abdul-Rahim was quoted by the PA-aligned daily Al Hayat al-Jedida.

"President Arafat said during the meeting of the Palestinian

leadership that if it is clear that those who carried out the suicide operation did not come from abroad then the PA will make an exerted effort against the forces of terror. We have started these steps and arrested members of Hamas who are suspected of illegal activities in violation of Palestinian law."

PA officials refused to acknowledge the Abdul-Rahim resignation.

"I'm refusing to comment on the subject," Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani told The Jerusalem Post. "If it's true, then there will be an official announcement."

Palestinians give US two conditions for renewing talks

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Palestinian officials yesterday submitted to the US administration what they said were their two conditions for resuming peace talks with Israel: a cessation of both settlement building and home demolitions.

Negotiator Saeb Erakat told reporters following a four-hour meeting at the State Department with special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross that he also raised complaints over Israel's announcement of plans to build new housing in Gush Etzion, as well as last week's Ras al-Amud controversy.

Ross told the delegation that the Americans had informed Israel that they considered the actions "irresponsible," Erakat reported.

He also said the Palestinians would "absolutely not" consider a postponement to mid-1998 of the first and second IDF redeployments. He added that the Palestinian Authority is prepared to jump ahead to final-status

talks now, but they must be held in conjunction with discussions on implementing the interim accords.

That view matches the American position on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's fast-track proposal.

Erakat was joined at the meeting by PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's deputy Mahmoud Abbas. An additional session between the Palestinians and Americans was to be held last night, with a third scheduled for today.

Abbas is due to meet with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Foreign Minister David Levy in New York early next week.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday night the administration presented Congress with draft legislation for renewing the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, the law that oversees US relations with the PLO.

See CONDITION, Page 17



A smell of Israel

President Ezer Weizman offers Dagmar Havel, wife of Czech President Vaclav Havel, a fresh melon to sniff yesterday on a visit to the Negev. "I wanted them to see what Zionism is," Weizman told reporters, as Kadesh Barnea farmers showed the Havels how salty underground water is used to grow top-quality produce.

(Isaac Harari)

PA: Efrat plans will undermine peace process

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

The Palestinian Authority said yesterday that Israeli plans to construct 300 apartment units in Efrat undermines current US and European efforts to renew the peace process.

PA officials said they would use the announcement made on Wednesday night by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu as evidence that Israel has failed to honor what they asserted was its agreement to the US not to embark on unilateral steps in the territories.

They warned that the PA will resist the implementation of the decision and said Palestinian representatives in Washington have raised the issue in talks with the State Department.

"This is a provocation of all the US and European efforts to resume the peace talks," Nabil Abu Rudeineh told reporters outside the PA Cabinet meeting in Hebron. PA Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdul-Rahman agreed.

"This is an attempt to pour fuel on the fire," he said, and was aimed at destroying the peace process.

PA officials sought to raise the Netanyahu announcement during their contacts with diplomats and foreign dignitaries. Faisal Hussein, the PA minister responsible for Jerusalem affairs, met with the visiting foreign minister of the Czech Republic and expressed Palestinian anger over the Israeli construction plans.

Hussein added the Efrat homes to a litany of PA complaints against Israel.

"This policy of closure and demolition of houses are an attempt to increase the violence on both sides," Hussein said. Nabil Amr, adviser to PA chief Yasser Arafat, said the Palestinian protest of new construction in Efrat does not signal that the authority tolerates existing Jewish settlements.

"We are not against only new settlements but against all settlements," he told Voice of Palestine Radio.

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Baby killed by van

A one-year-old girl was killed yesterday in Tira when she climbed under the wheels of a van that had come to take her two sisters to school and the driver, unaware, drove off. (Titm)

Man killed while fleeing in stolen taxi

An Arab man was killed when the stolen taxi he was driving overturned on the road between his town and Masada. Police said the man, who had a criminal record, apparently stole the cab late Wednesday night, and was speeding away, when he lost control on a curve and overturned. The demolished taxi was discovered yesterday morning. (Titm)

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, the 8 of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the jack of clubs. In the second drawing, the winning cards were the king of spades, the 10 of hearts, the 7 of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 245622 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 841289 won the car. Tickets 508529, 457339, 081426, 252990, 052008, 512655, 219732 and 622146 won NIS5,000. Tickets ending in 18775, 43839, 70746, 82178, 67343, 98845, 52344, 87957, 89040, 52751, 41862, 94054, 38359, 07361, 35722, 95781, 87192, 90482 and 15244 won NIS1,000.

Tickets ending in 702,544,589 and 058 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 66,95,58 and 32 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 31 and 10 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 4 and 5 won NIS 10.

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Bosnia hopes to forge ties with Israel

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Despite its chaotic government, Bosnia intends to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, its permanent representative to the UN said yesterday.

"This probably should have been done in the past. That's unfortunate," Mohammed Sacirbey told *The Jerusalem Post*. "But we were preoccupied with our own issues at the time."

An Israeli official here said that talks about permanent relations are continuing.

While Bosnia's "complicated and relatively new governmental structures create a level of uncertainty," Sacirbey said, "this should not create confusion about the political intention and desire to have relations with Israel."

The Bosnian embassy would be in Tel Aviv.

Although ties with Israel would create problems with some Arab and Islamic governments, Sacirbey said, "we don't want Bosnia as a whole to be an Islamic state obliged to follow a certain line of thinking."

The Jewish and Moslem Bosnian refugees who had come to Israel were well received, said Sacirbey.

He also noted something of a debt to the Jewish community, which continues to provide aid to Bosnia. "The world-wide Jewish community was very consistent on 'never again,' and that applies to others besides Jews," he said. "They saw Bosnians as being the victims of a genocide who deserved the protection of the Western world, as Jews had deserved it and never received it."

Hizbullah fire wounds woman, 2 SLA soldiers

By DAVID RUDGE

A Lebanese woman and two South Lebanese Army soldiers were wounded by Hizbullah mortar and missile fire yesterday in the security zone.

The incident occurred near Beit Yahoun in the western sector of the zone, when Hizbullah gunmen opened fire at IDF troops. There were no casualties among the IDF soldiers.

Simultaneously, mortars and missiles were also fired at a nearby SLA position, lightly wounding two SLA soldiers.

Some of the rounds fell on Beit Yahoun, wounding a local woman. All three were taken to nearby Bint J'bal hospital for treatment. IDF and SLA soldiers returned fire. There were no reports of any Hizbullah casualties.

Security sources said Hizbullah continues to hit civilians in the security zone by long-range fire, explosive devices, and missiles, in breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Army commander Gen. Emile Lahoud yesterday vowed to continue fighting what he described as Israel's occupation of south Lebanon.

He was reacting to comments made during a visit to the security zone earlier this week by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who warned that the IDF would shoot back if fired upon by Lebanese troops.

"The Israeli threats will not turn the army away from doing its duty in confronting the occupation. This confrontation is based on our territorial integrity, despite the big difference in means between us and the enemy," said Lahoud.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri also made it clear yesterday that Lebanon would not enter into any separate agreements with Israel over an IDF pullout from Lebanon.

He charged that Israel's preconditions would make Lebanon "responsible for every security incident inside Israel." News agency reports said Hariri was commenting on a proposal made by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this month that the IDF would withdraw on condition the Lebanese Army prevent any attacks on Israel.

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Mordechai seeks to extend Shahak's command

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to recommend to the cabinet on Sunday that the command of Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak be extended until mid-1998 and that he not step down as scheduled on January 1.

It has been a long-standing tradition that the chiefs of general staff be given an extra, fourth year in the post. But there had been reports, denied by Shahak, that he would not seek an extension because he was discontent with the Likud-led government.

Defense officials said last night that Mordechai will recommend that Shahak be kept at the IDF helm until July 9. The date was agreed upon by Mordechai and Shahak, defense officials said.

The recommendations of the defense minister in this matter are generally accepted and it is unlikely that there will be any opposition.

Until now, Mordechai had remained coy about Shahak's future.

In a recent meeting with military reporters, Mordechai would say only that he had "great respect for the chief of general staff and he will continue to serve as long as he is needed."

It is thought that the July date was set to both allow Shahak to remain in his post during the 50th anniversary celebrations and give his successor enough time to put together a 1999 working plan.

Shahak's successor will most likely be Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnai.



Jerusalem's usually busy Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall is virtually empty yesterday.

(Brynn McBurney)

'Business has never been this slow'

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Pre-holiday shopping is customarily a boon for shopkeepers, but not this year: Business in downtown Jerusalem isn't just suffering, it's dead.

"I'm not selling the Rosh Hashana items like calendars and mahzorim [holiday prayer-books]," said Judy Fredi, proprietor of Gur-Arieh Books on Rehov Nahalat Shiva. "I usually sell around 50 mahzorim before Rosh Hashana. This year I've sold two."

Eight weeks after the bombing attack in Mahaneh Yehuda and three weeks after Rehov Ben-Yehuda was hit, store owners are saying that the public's avoidance of crowded places continues, with no end in sight.

"Business has dropped by half, at least, since the attack on Ben-Yehuda," said Fredi. "There are other factors, like the end of summer, but it's been such a

drastic drop. Restaurants feel it more; it's so obvious because they're out on the street and you can see that all the tables are empty."

Uri Greenspan, owner of the historic Cafe Atara, said the drop in his business has been unprecedented, 50 percent to 60 percent.

"It's never been this bad in all the years I've been here, never like this," he said. "Even during the wars you had more business: the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War — maybe two, three days you had less, of course, but after that people came back."

"People are afraid, and they are saying it openly: 'If we don't have to come downtown, we don't come. If we have to do something, we come and do it, and then leave.' I can't remember such a period of time that people are not coming downtown. Ben-Yehuda has really been a dead street for three weeks."

For some of Greenspan's customers, like 86-year-old Viola Lemberger, a Holocaust survivor, there's nothing to fear.

"I wouldn't think twice about coming here, because what is *bashert* [fated] is *bashert*," she said, adding that she makes the trip downtown twice a week.

"What can you do, close yourself up and not attend to your daily living? They said the mall would also be attacked. I don't think for one minute that something could happen because in general I think positive."

In Mahaneh Yehuda, they're trying to think positive as well, hoping that business picks up before Rosh Hashana starts. But on a visit this past Wednesday, a day usually crowded with those shopping for Shabbat, one could stroll leisurely without getting pushed from behind.

"I come here twice week, and I've never seen it so quiet," said Burt Faudem. "I usually come

Sunday and Wednesday; Sunday is normally quiet, but Wednesday? Usually you can't walk through, it's so crowded."

The market is traditionally slow at the beginning of the week, but according to shwarma seller Menashe Namir, "people are coming now on Sunday and Monday. They know the bombers are looking for a crowded day, so they try and avoid the end of the week."

Namir said his business went down 20 percent after the bombing of the market, and then fell off another 15 percent after the Ben-Yehuda bombing.

"People hadn't recovered yet from the first one, and then the second hit," he said. "They suspect another one is going to go off. Their feeling of security is down to zero."

As for the future of downtown business, said Atara's Greenspan, "There's nothing we can do but be patient and wait."

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Barak apologizes to Sephardim

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak yesterday asked the forgiveness of Sephardim for the "pain and human suffering" caused them in the early days of the state.

The text of his apology was read at a press conference in advance of Sunday's party convention in Netivot. There the apology is to be voted on as an official resolution, entitled "Recognition and apology for past errors and the turning of a new page."

The Netivot venue and the apology are part of a strategy by Barak to woo the support of Sephardi voters who have traditionally voted Likud. He is also courting religious voters and announced yesterday that 400 new delegates would be added to the convention, 100 "representing the traditional sector and religious council members and 300 representing the social sector," a euphemism for Sephardim.

Sitting beneath a giant banner reading "Labor in the Negev," Barak made his apology retroactive, saying it "comes on my behalf and on behalf of the entire Labor movement in all its generations - Mapai, the Alignment, and now the Labor Party."

He said that "the Labor movement was responsible for the establishment of the state. Within this act, there was the uprooting of whole communities from North Africa and the Arab countries, and they were dispersed in transit camps and later development towns and moshavim. The special pioneering role of this group was never recognized or appreciated."

"I find it very important to loudly say today that their pioneering contribution was enormous. In the course of the uprooting, there were many indignities to families, and deep scars remain in the memories people associate with the Labor Party. For the pain and human suffering caused, I apologize in my name and in the name

of the Labor Party."

Barak expressed confidence that his statement "will signal a new beginning" in his "party's relations with the development towns and will lead to true equality and partnership."

Barak's overtures to Sephardi voters were not universally applauded in his party. MK Haggai Merom, who is seeking the secretary-generalship, said that he dislikes the notion that "Labor is guilty of any wrongdoing. This is a great slap in the face to David Ben-Gurion and all that he did and built up."

Former secretary-general Nissim Zvilli thought that "this is hardly the way to create and to foster a new set of relations. A verbal apology is no magic wand."

MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, who convinced Barak to apologize, warned that "this is hardly enough. There have to be practical steps to prove sincerity."



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (left) chats with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv. (Yael Sornich/Israel Sun)

Likud ridicules opposition leader's apology

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's apology to the Sephardim earned him scathing scorn from the Likud yesterday.

At a toast for the new year hosted by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the Likud's Metzudat Ze'ev headquarters in Tel Aviv, Science Minister Michael Eitan said that "the first apology by Barak on behalf of generations of Laborites should have gone to the Likud and all of its predecessor gen-

erations - the Revisionists, Herut, and Gahal - who always took up the cause of those in Israeli society shunned by the ruling elitist establishment."

"For doing this, we were viciously accused of practicing incitement. Now that Barak repeats what we have been charging all along, perhaps he should right another historical wrong and apologize to the Likud."

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav cautioned Barak that "he may in coming years

find that he has to apologize on behalf of the Labor Party for the [Oslo] agreement which unleashed terror on Israeli citizens."

Shas' Aryeh Deri said last night that "the only way Barak can back up his words with action is to unequivocally part ways with Meretz, till there is no doubt that it and Labor are in effect one big party. So long as there is the slightest link between Labor and Meretz, Barak cannot win Sephardi hearts." Netanyahu declined to comment on Barak's apology.

Arison: I gave more money to Left than Right

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Israel's richest businessman, Ted Arison, who is very close to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu admitted yesterday that he has donated more money to left-wing politicians than to right-wing ones.

Arison, who led the group that won the tender for the purchase of Bank Hapoalim earlier this month, surprised journalists attending a press conference in his office in Tel Aviv, when he told them that besides giving to politicians such as Netanyahu and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, he also gave to Labor Party MK Haim Ramon.

"I have donated more money to the left side," Arison said.

He also stated that he enjoys doing business with members of the Left. "One of my first success in Israel was the opening of the Nir-Ad factory in Kibbutz Nir-Am, which belongs to Hashomer Hazair. I really enjoy working with these people."

Arison, the founder of the Miami-based cruise ship operator Carnival Corp., returned to Israel

seven years ago. Local newspapers suggested that one of the reasons for his return was his will for revenge on the "socialists" who robbed his father of his share in the shipping company he built together with Meir Dizengoff, and who prevented him from doing business here.

Arison stressed that he considers himself as Israeli. "I left Israel in 1952, but I've decided to return. There is no reason to call me an American-Israeli."

Arison Investments managing director Shlomo Nehamah emphasized that the money donated to politicians by Arison is by far less than that he has given to social causes. "Just this year the Arison Fund has donated \$10 million," he said. This includes a NIS 3m. donation to the Technion, NIS 4m. to an art school, and NIS 3m. to a museum on the First Aliyah in Zichron Ya'akov (where Arison was born).

Arison said that he is not worried by the current political situation. "We're going toward peace, and we'll reach it sooner than expected."

Teen suspect in Maryland killing found here

WASHINGTON - A 17-year-old high school senior, one of two suspects charged in a Montgomery County, Md., dismemberment killing, has been located in Israel. His return was being negotiated since Wednesday night, shortly after police identified the victim as a Silver Spring, Md., man last seen with the two murder suspects.

The body of Alfredo Enrique Tello Jr., 19, was found Friday without arms and legs and burned almost beyond recognition in the garage of a vacant house around the corner from the Aspen Hill, Md., home of Samuel Sheinbein.

Acting on information from the Sheinbein family, Montgomery police located the youth in Israel, and police were negotiating his voluntary return through a private attorney.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said yesterday that he had no knowledge of the youth, and no complaint or request for information had been received by the police from any official source.

Asked if the police would hand over the youth to US officials, Hefetz said any such request would be weighed on an individual basis.

"Over the last couple of days, we have been working to bring him back and informing the police of dates and times so they can take him into custody and bring him back to the country," Paul Stein, the Sheinbein family's attorney, said Wednesday. "The family is absolutely distraught, but we will be working with the State Attorney's Office to see what happened here."

The other suspect, Aaron Benjamin Needle, also 17, remained in jail after his lawyer told a judge that Needle would not seek bail, because he felt safer behind bars while Sheinbein remains at large. He is being held at the Montgomery County Detention Center.

Police said Tello was identified by dental records. Employees at Congressional Aquarium in Rockville, where Tello worked for about three weeks, said his mother called the store several times last week asking whether her son had been to work.

"She said it wasn't like him to be gone," said Danny Woodruff, an employee. "She did sound concerned."

Police said Tello moved out of his mother's home September 15. He was last seen leaving the

shop about 6 p.m. the next day with Sheinbein and Needle, police said.

Montgomery County Assistant State Attorney James Trusty said Tello was killed either that night or September 17, the latter being the date on a Home Depot receipt discovered in the garage of the vacant house where Tello's remains were found.

The receipt, stamped at 2:17 p.m., listed a Makita circular power saw, a trash can, and several propane cylinders. The saw and cylinders were also found in the garage.

Charging documents indicate Sheinbein got access to the adjoining vacant house on September 18 after calling the son of a former resident and saying he needed a place to take a girl.

Sheinbein was told that a key was over the sliding glass door, and Sheinbein located it while still on his cell phone, police said.

The body was discovered the next morning by an employee of the real estate agency making a routine check of the vacant property, which is listed for sale. Needle was arrested Tuesday in Greenbelt, Md.

The nature of the relationship among the three teenagers is unclear. Sheinbein may have met Needle when both were attending another school in Rockville, Md., according to one source.

Tello, who was known as Freddy, attended Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, but withdrew last December, midway through his senior year, according to a Montgomery public schools spokesman.

He worked for six months at a Rockville retail store whose owner said she had to fire him in April because he was often late for work.

"He had some friends who I wasn't too thrilled about being in my store, and I said, 'Freddy, be careful,'" the woman said.

At Wednesday's bail hearing, Needle, who appeared on a video monitor from the detention center, at first made no reply when District Court Judge Eric Johnson said, "The maximum penalty if you are found guilty is death. Do you understand that?"

Needle's mother pursed her lips and shook her head. Needle, sitting ramrod straight and staring at the camera, made no reply.

"Do you understand that?" Johnson repeated. "Yes," came the answer.

Pupils of Asian, African origin lead in matric gains

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The largest increase in recent years in the percentage of pupils earning matriculation certificates is among those of Asian and African descent, according to a poll released today by Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell.

Based on figures supplied by the Central

Bureau of Statistics, Dell said that between 1987 and 1995, there was an overall increase from 29% to 39% in the number of all pupils earning matriculation certificates, with girls receiving 51% and boys 38% of the certificates. The increases by ethnic breakdown were as follows: Israeli-born - up from 45% to 51%; Asian/African born - from 23% to 34%; from Europe and the US

- up from 42% to 50%.

Among minorities, the greatest increase was among the Druse, increasing from 16% to 30%, followed by Moslem Arab pupils, 11% to 16%. Among Christian Arabs, the rate dropped from 32% to 29%. The overall rate among Israel's minorities was 16%.

Dell said the figures strengthen the claims of those who say the educational gap

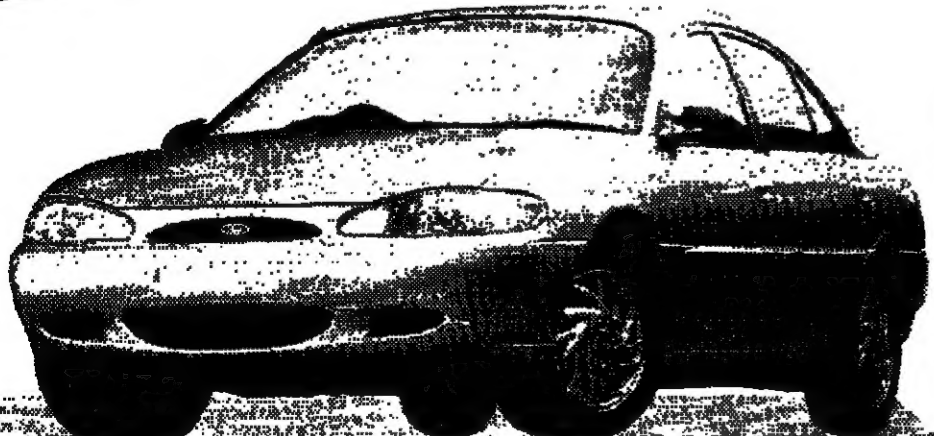
between Ashkenazi and Oriental Jews has narrowed, although not enough and not at a fast enough rate. He added that despite the cutbacks, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer had ordered the widening of projects aimed at increasing the number of pupils receiving matriculation certificates from among the weaker sectors of the population.

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HISTADRUT

Continued from Page 1

Government workers were warned last night by the Civil Service Commission that it is illegal for them to prevent those wanting to work from entering government buildings. Government offices will be open as usual on Sunday morning and preventing entry is considered a crime, read a commission statement.

The Union of Local Authorities yesterday asked the National Labor Court for restraining orders that would prevent 80,000

local authority workers from striking. A hearing is scheduled for this morning.

ULA chairman Adi Eldar said that local authority heads were taking this action because they felt the Histadrut was exploiting the locality workers in its fight against the government and was disrupting local services when it knew that local authority heads had no say in either their employees' salaries or their pension arrangements.

The Manufacturers Association also asked the National Labor Court to issue an injunction preventing workers in industry from striking.

Navy officers take lawyers in raid probe

By HERB KERNON

Six naval intelligence officers are scheduled to appear Sunday before the committee investigating the botched raid in Lebanon earlier this month in which 12 servicemen were killed.

The six received letters on Wednesday, informing them that their names may appear in the report being prepared by the committee, and that they may be harmed by the report.

The IDF Spokesman stressed that the letters, which invited them to appear before the committee, in no way indicate any culpability on the officers' part. Rather, they were necessary because of the law which states that anybody who may be harmed by the findings of an investigative committee has the right to appear before that committee.

Those summoned can be represented by a lawyer, and all six have chosen to be.

The committee, said Maj-Gen. (res.) Avraham Rotem, formerly a member of the General Staff and head of IDF training, is not a court. Rather, the committee will make recommendations regarding whether disciplinary action should be taken against those involved.

Rotem, a fellow at Bar-Ilan University's BESA Center, said that from the standpoint of army morale it is significant that the officers not be asked about performance or mistakes made during the operation itself, but rather questioned about whether the proper procedures leading up to the raid were followed.

There is a world of difference between investigating the performance of an officer in the heat of

battle, something the IDF says is not subject to adjudication, and seeing whether all the necessary procedures and precautions were followed leading up to an operation," Rotem said.

In recent years, there has been growing pressure on the part of some bereaved parents to have the actions of officers in the heat of battle investigated. The IDF position is that it is impossible for a court to judge the decisions of an officer during the pressures of battle.

According to Rotem, the questions the six intelligence officers are likely to be asked will have to do with whether the intelligence information was analyzed properly beforehand, whether the material went through all the proper channels, and whether the entire operation was organized according to standing IDF regulations and orders.

"The committee has the authority to investigate and to point out where something was not done according to proper procedure," Rotem said. "It can also recommend that the officers be put on trial in a military court."

This could happen, Rotem said if one of the officers was found to have breached military security and talked on an open phone about the operation before it took place.

Beyond making formal disciplinary recommendations, and putting into practice lessons learned from the operation, the committee can also act informally.

"This committee has the chief of staff's attention," Rotem said. "It can, through informal channels, make it clear that it does not think a particular officer is suited for a particular job."



Road remains off limits

Yousef Kablan, head of the Beit Jann Local Council, is flanked by two men waving Palestinian flags as he speaks to a crowd of Druze in Jerusalem yesterday, after the High Court of Justice reaffirmed its earlier decision not to permit vehicles to use a road built by residents of Beit Jann and Hureish which runs through the Mt. Meron Nature Reserve. However, the court did not forbid the holding of a ceremony at a memorial for the 73 soldiers who died in the February helicopter crash. The memorial was set up alongside the road by Majid Kazameh, whose son was one of those killed.

(Text: Batsheva Thier, Photo: Brian Handley)

NEWS

in brief

Oberkowitz and Avimor fined, given probation

Yoram Oberkowitz, chairman of the Hapoel sports organization, and Ya'acov Avimor, former director-general of the group, were each sentenced yesterday to a year's probation and fined NIS 25,000, after their conviction earlier this month of falsifying the organization's records and breach of trust.

Tel Aviv District Court President Dan Arbel said he had found no evidence that the two had acted out of personal interest, but only to protect the organization they worked for from harm. *Itim*

New director named for Jerusalem AIPAC office

Veteran AIPAC staffer Wendy Senor Singer has been appointed director of the organization's Jerusalem office, where she has been serving as acting director.

Commenting on her appointment, cabinet secretary Dan Naveh noted "her extraordinary professionalism in dealing with senior Israeli leaders and it is clear that she has earned the confidence and respect of each of them. AIPAC has made an excellent choice." Singer and her husband, Saul, made aliyah in October 1994, before which she served as an AIPAC lobbyist in Washington. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Dayan's gall bladder removed

Labor Party MK Yael Dayan yesterday underwent removal of her gall bladder at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva. Prof. Eliahu Antebi, head of the Surgery A department, said the operation was successful and that Dayan was doing well. *Judy Siegel*

Reform movement gets land in Tel Aviv

The Tel Aviv Municipality has given the Reform movement land in Jaffa to build a cultural center, youth hostel and synagogue capable of accommodating some 600 worshippers. The project, according to Rabbi Meir Azari, spiritual leader of Beit Daniel, Tel Aviv's only Reform synagogue, is to be part of a major outreach program by the movement to the disadvantaged neighborhoods. It is projected to cost some \$12 million, with most of the funds coming from contributions from abroad. *Haim Shapiro*

Internet surfers make waves

The first Israel Internet Surfing Championship will be held on Hanukka. Internet Zahav and Biran Communications announced the competition among thousands of expert Internet surfers. It does not refer to getting wet, but to being adept at maneuvering through E-mail, databases, search engines, discussion groups and Web pages on the Internet. *Judy Siegel*

High Court:

No need to investigate Barak's role in Tze'elim-2

By BAT-SHEVA THIER

The High Court of Justice yesterday upheld the decision of the state comptroller not to investigate the Tze'elim-2 disaster and the role played by then chief of staff Ehud Barak.

The Movement for Quality Government and two soldiers injured in the incident had petitioned the court against the comptroller's decision, announced three months ago, saying that it was exceptionally unreasonable and left a dark cloud over the head of Barak, the Labor Party leader.

The two also said the comptroller's decision besmirched their names, since one of the reasons he gave for not investigating was that, two years later, they changed the original version which they gave immediately after the accident.

The petition was heavily censored and the court banned publication of the names of the petitioners and details of the November 5, 1992 accident, in which five members of an elite commando unit were killed.

While they noted that the comptroller had relied for information on newspaper reports, Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Theodore Or, and Eliahu Mazza said that the arguments raised in the petition had not convinced them there was reason to intervene in the comptroller's decision.

Although they were not represented in the petition, members of two of the bereaved families were present in the court. Shlomo Cohen, the father of the late Arye, said later: "We are disappointed, but this was to be expected. However, things are not over and the truth will still come to light. Till then, we shall leave no stone unturned."

The movement will study the court's decision and see whether there is room for further action, its spokesman said yesterday evening.

Judge orders count of banned book on Dakar

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Hila Gester yesterday ordered a count of how many books about the missing submarine Dakar have already been distributed before she decides whether the book should be censored. Copies of the book Dakar were taken off the shelves last week after the government filed suit claiming some details in the book "harm national security." But Gester, indicating the suit may be irrelevant if enough copies of the book have already been distributed, ordered the publishers to count how many copies had been sold or given away before the temporary ban was issued. The number is to be submitted to the court by Tuesday. (AP)

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Expansion without direction

Efrat is a small town of about 6,000 people, essentially a suburb of Jerusalem. It is also the largest settlement of Gush Etzion, now celebrating the 30th anniversary of its reestablishment after its original kibbutzim were lost during the War of Independence. If there is any part of the settlement enterprise that stands within the Israeli consensus for any conceivable final status agreement, it is the Gush; yet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's off-hand answer to an Efrat high school student's question is now causing the latest flap in the peace process.

Netanyahu was asked why the Efrat neighborhood of Givat Zayit, which had been approved under the Rabin government and where building began in 1995, has not been completed. He spoke of 300 new housing units, and said that previous governments had not budgeted for infrastructure in the neighborhood, and that this situation would be rectified.

This response has been deemed a dreaded declaration of "settlement expansion," worthy of swift condemnation from US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who is said to be seething that Netanyahu did not warn her of his intentions in their phone conversation just hours before.

The Palestinians, who at the same moment had a delegation in Washington to follow up on the talks that began during Albright's visit to the region, have been having a field day with Netanyahu's statement, claiming that it shows the disdain with which Netanyahu holds the peace process in general and Albright in particular. After all, it was Albright who had called on Israel to take a "time out" from "unilateral actions" that disrupt the peace process.

If Netanyahu had played his cards right, he might have, carefully and over time, worked out an interpretation of "unilateral actions" that allowed for a defined, moderate level of natural growth within the territories. Given the fact that the growth of Jewish settlements has already slowed to less than the pace that was quietly ignored in the Rabin era — while the Palestinians' own program of strategic building proceeds without comment — the condemnation by Washington of Netanyahu's statement was an overreaction.

But by carelessly blindsiding the US with Wednesday's statement, Netanyahu has actually

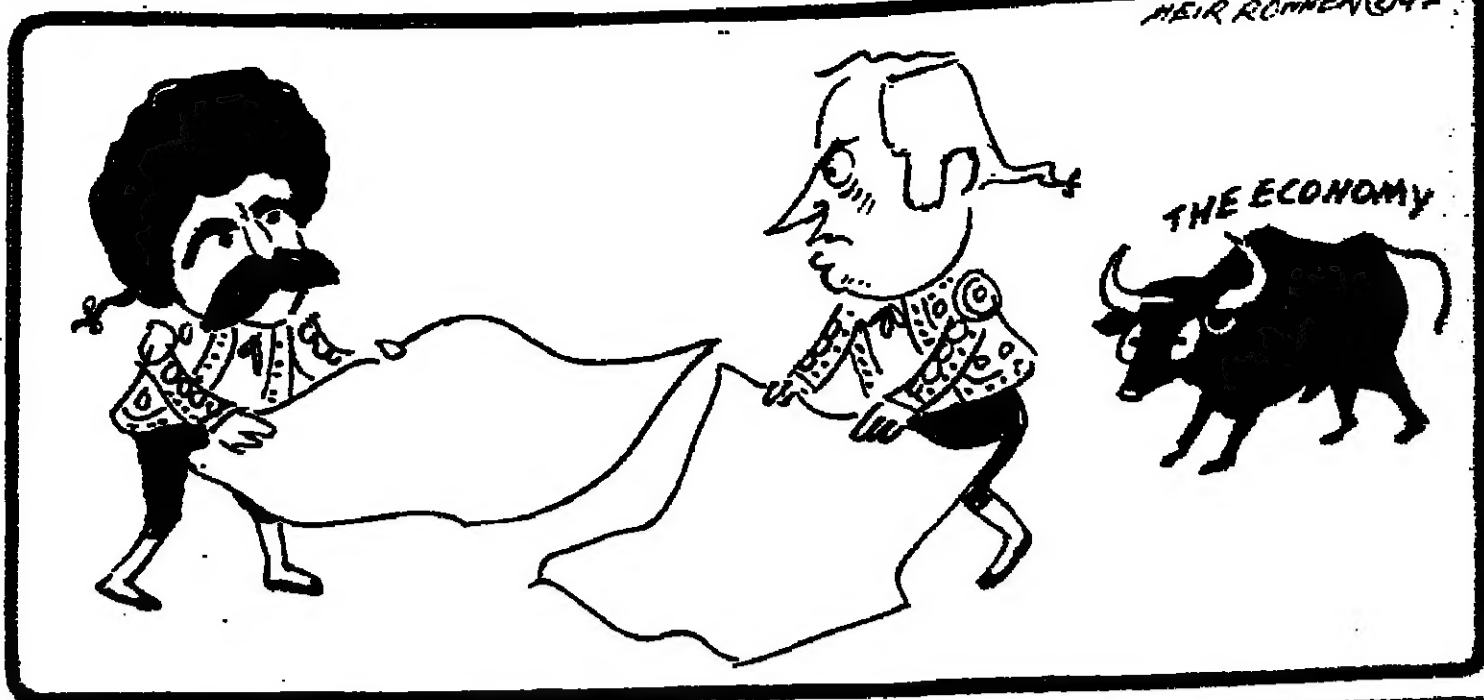
jeopardized the chances of working out an arrangement that would facilitate natural growth, and presented the Palestinians with a golden opportunity to deflect the pressure on them to deliver on the security front.

For Netanyahu, the world's reaction to such statements is just an illustration of the general unfairness with which Israel is treated, and a reaction to his more demanding stance towards the Palestinians. But the world, Oslo, and the previous government cannot be forever blamed for Netanyahu's predicament. The irony is that, for all his criticism of Oslo, Netanyahu has let Oslo define his policy framework by leaving the alternative — a clear vision for a final status agreement — deliberately murky.

It is important and commendable that Netanyahu has succeeded in convincing the United States to back his proposal for accelerated final status talks. And the leaking of Aton-plus plans were a clear indication that the government has accepted the concept of territorial compromise. The problem is that the bones thrown to the Left always seem to be tossed furtively out the back door and quickly ignored, while the bones for the Right are put out on the front porch and promptly magnified by the international spotlight.

What is needed is an unapologetic, positive vision of the peace that Israel hopes to achieve with the Palestinians. In his speech before the National Defense College in August, Netanyahu pointed out that the Arab world is littered with broken treaties of friendship, and that, "We cannot expect that the peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors will be of a higher quality than that which exists between the Arabs themselves." He also repeated his analogy to the armed peace that existed between the US and the Soviet Union.

All of this is true, and needs to be said. No one is expecting a peace between Israelis and Palestinians to be like that between the US and Canada. What is missing, however, is an expression of the peace Israel aspires to; a peace of two nations sharing the same land, warily at first, but with tremendous potential for cooperation and mutual respect; a sense that Israel will warmly accept all hands outstretched towards it, and will try to extend its hand as well.



Unsettling actions

DAVID KIMCHE

The students were discussing the recent take-over in Ras al-Amud, and I couldn't help overhearing what they were saying. It was during an interval between lectures at an academic conference, and the discussion was sparked by one of the students saying: "The settlers and Hamas are two sides of the same coin. They both are determined to kill the peace process." A second student concurred, remarking: "I feel much closer to a moderate Palestinian than to our own home-grown fanatics."

These two remarks caused a general discussion in which not a single student came to the defense of the Ras al-Amud squatters, or had a good word to say for the settlers in general. Most of them were vehemently outspoken in their denunciation of "the sabotage of the peace process" by the settlers, as one of them put it.

Not all readers of this article will be in agreement with the students, but it should be realized that many many people in Israel would applaud every word they said.

The fact is that moderate Israelis, secular and religious alike, who make up a large majority of our population, are becoming increasingly angry and frustrated at the antics of the fundamentalist, extreme right-wing elements of the Jewish population. Ras al-Amud was a case in point: A handful of settlers succeeded in creating a severe crisis for the government, a crisis which all but blew up in all our faces.

This was, of course, exactly what the settlers wanted to do. Any act that can help derail the

peace process, that can increase tension between Arab and Jew and prevent understanding between Israelis and Palestinians is seized upon by them. Yet there is a basic flaw in their thinking and actions. For whereas they profess to act to strengthen the Jewish presence in the land of Israel, they are, in fact, weakening it. They are causing increasing discord among the Jewish population, and discord is weakness.

Every such act as the Ras al-

extremist leaders of the settler movement.

ISRAELI society is becoming increasingly polarized, and the moderate religious elements are caught in the crossfire between the secular, who lump all the religious Jews together under the extremist banner, and the right-wing extremists, for whom all moderates, especially the religious ones, are little better than renegades and traitors.

This is one negative effect of

A large majority of our population is becoming increasingly angry at the antics of the fundamentalist, extreme right-wing

Amud move-in ups the ante of anger and revulsion, deepens the cleavage within the populace, and undermines the unity of the people. And that means weakness.

Much of the anger is directed, quite wrongly, at the religious element of the population, and this, in turn, increases internal tensions. It is wrong to automatically identify all our religious believers with the fanatics of Ateret Kohanim and the settler movement, or even to equate all religious Jews with Orthodox political parties. A large segment of religious Israelis, is embarrassed by the lack of tolerance displayed by the leaders of the religious parties and by the words and deeds of the largely religious

the activities of the extremists. Another is that, because of their behavior, Israel is becoming unpalatable in the world and unacceptable in our own region. The positive image that Israel used to enjoy has been replaced by a much more tarnished one, one that is as distasteful to the average Israeli as it is negative in the eyes of the outside world. To too many people in the world, Israel is being equated with the fanatics of Ras al-Amud.

It has become axiomatic to say that the prime minister cannot act against the right-wing fanatics because this would endanger his relations with his own electorate and threaten the unity of his government. But is this really so?

Is our premier so beholden to the settler extremists that he cannot move against them, even when they act in direct contravention of his own wishes and policies? Is he a hostage of "Force 17," the group of MKs who banded together under the leadership of Michael Kleiner to defend the interests of Greater Israel? If it is so, then there is absolutely no hope for the peace process during his term of office.

If the prime minister had acted forthrightly at the beginning of the crisis, he would have gained the respect and support of the large majority of the people, and I can assure him that neither Michael Kleiner, nor Hanan Porat, nor any other of the hard-liners would have given up their Knesset seat because of it.

As it is, the wishy-washy compromise that was worked out has not defused the situation for any length of time, has portrayed weakness on the part of the premier, and has satisfied nobody. The Irving Moskowitzes of the world will not be discouraged by it.

Yet there is a silver lining to this particularly dark cloud. The prime minister did, after all, react, even if it was too late and too little. He did give assurances to the Americans which he will not be able to circumvent. And bloodshed was avoided.

Ateret Kohanim, however, has plans for further moves. We may not be so lucky next time.

The writer, a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry, is president of the Israel Council for Foreign Relations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

Sir, — Your issue of September 5 has two allusions to the study of the Talmud, one by Jonathan Rosenblum and the other by Rabbi Shlomo Riskin. Rosenblum says that even a new "student who drops in at a yeshiva off the street" is given a strong dose of legal Talmud material, even though he can cover only one page in the whole month that he lives in the yeshiva. He says this is done to show him that one must always consider all possible angles of a subject, "all the evidence."

Rabbi Riskin tells of the Talmudic rule that to convict a man of a crime one must have two witnesses who actually saw the man commit the crime. How is this possible? Most crimes are committed in secret. We need circumstantial evidence to convict.

In that excellent book *Everyman's Talmud* by the British Rabbi A. Cohen, we find the explicit state-

ment that "circumstantial evidence, however convincing, was not accepted. A witness was only allowed to testify who saw the crime actually committed." He cites an example of a man who was seen chasing another man into a shop with a sword in his hand, and then he came out with the sword dripping in blood and the man inside was found killed. Yet the testimony of the witness could not be accepted because he did not see the actual murder.

Most crimes are now decided on circumstantial evidence. Some of our Orthodox citizens want us to adopt all the legal procedures of Jewish law. Do they also want us to go by this rule of the two witnesses to the actual crime? Can any Talmudic experts among your readers explain this problem?

Tel Aviv.

CHESTER GROB

HYPOCRITE

Sir, — In "A Tragedy Named Moskowitz" (September 19), Amotz Asa-El, usually a strong advocate of free enterprise, hypocritically accused Moskowitz of having "sought greed" in America and of acting like a "medieval moneylender (who) thinks he can manipulate anything with his wealth."

Such accusations are false. Moskowitz, a retired doctor and businessman, pursued wealth — the American Dream — something many Israelis also aspire to. Secondly, Moskowitz has given millions of

dollars to Jewish and non-Jewish causes, with no strings attached. The Ras al-Amud affair raises questions of individual property rights vis-a-vis municipal/national housing policies and deserves a rational approach. Mr. Asa-El should stick to promoting the liberalization of the economy and eschew medieval, Christian style antisemitic themes. Leave extremism to the Palestinian Authority and their Hamas allies.

Upper Nazareth

ROBERT KIRK

HAIRY TALE

Sir, — After reading your article entitled "Splitting Hairs" (August 26), the Minister of Justice's hair stood on end (at least those hairs he has remaining). This is because Ms. Greer Fay Cashman's speculation regarding whether the minister had received a hair transplant or was wearing a toupee had no basis in fact.

Ms. Cashman is invited to the minister's office to count the hairs on the minister's head, so that the minister may prove, to his regret, that his hair count is only diminishing.

ETTY ESHED, Spokesperson for The Ministry of Justice, Jerusalem.

PEACE DEMO

Sir, — Helen Schary Motro, "Rest in Peace, peace," (September 18) reported her distress and disappointment when the organizers estimated that 50,000 people turned out for the Tel Aviv demonstration celebrating Oslo's fourth anniversary. Interestingly, "journalists and photographers estimated the number as closer to 10,000" ("Peace rally blasts Netanyahu," *Jerusalem Post*, Sept. 14). The featured speakers were Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak, Leah Rabin and Yossi Sarid.

Enough said!

SUE GOLDEN LERNER, Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 26, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that the League of Nations Sixth (Political) Committee had adopted a Resolution on Palestine. It stressed the importance and complexity of the Palestine problem, expressed conviction that it would be equitably settled and thanked the Mandatory Power, the Mandates Commission and the League of Nations Council for their close and frank cooperation.

A number of wealthy Arab landowners were shot at various

villages and one was murdered at Acre.

50 years ago: On September 26, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that Dr. Herbert Ewart, the Australian minister of external affairs, was elected chairman of the UN Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine.

The *Exodus 1947* "illegal" immigrants to Palestine ignored both the British ultimatum and the French offer of sanctuary, all of them reiterating that the only country they would go was Palestine.

Numerous Arabs were arrested.

throughout the country in connection with shootings, holdups, robberies and possession of arms. 25 years ago: On September 26, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* announced that US secretary of state William Rogers called for a global conference to adopt a treaty cracking down on international terror.

A quarter century after their capture by the Arab Legion and their subsequent desecration, the Sephardi synagogues in Jerusalem's Old City were opened again for services.

Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPTS

THE POSTAGE was correct, so the US Postal Service accepted a dozen dried-out, hairy pigs ears, addressed like individual fleshy postcards to ear-biting boxer Mike Tyson.

"They were the weirdest things I've ever seen," said Yolanda Stenson, a customer relations coordinator in Phoenix.

Each ear was about 127 mm long. Stamps were stuck to each one. And Tyson's address was written on the bare hide in felt-tip pen.

Stenson said they apparently were dropped in a mail box, and postal workers processed them just like other packages, 10 days after the notorious heavyweight bout in

which Tyson chewed off a chunk of Evander Holyfield's right ear.

"As long as it's not too big and the postage is good, we'll try to deliver it," said a postal worker Tony Gervasio. He added that he once helped ship a tumbleweed to the Midwest and has carefully affixed stamps to everything from tree limbs to basketballs.

"The only things we won't mail for you are cats, dogs and kids," he said.

THE FIRST time Dave DeWitt bit into a really hot chili pepper, the sweat rolled down his face and he feared he had gone too far. Now he doesn't find it a bit

strange to drizzle a little habanero hot sauce onto his ice cream. It cuts the sweet, he said.

At the Texas Fiery Foods Show, such passages of taste are understood. A medium-hot person today can become an XXX person tomorrow, but some products automatically are ruled off-limits to all but the most reckless.

DeWitt, an organizer of the Austin show and author of *The Hot Sauce Bible*, will not allow visitors even to sample the super-hot sauces (stirred, he admitted, by unpleasant memories of fainting and spontaneous vomiting at a previous food show). Some of the sauces are so potent that they can

be sampled only with the barest prick of a toothpick into the bowl; honey or cream are placed nearby for relief.

"Mostly it has to do with taste buds," said DeWitt of Albuquerque, dismissing the notion that a cast-iron stomach is required. "It's the super-tasters, people with a lot of taste buds on their tongues, who have trouble with chili peppers."

For the aficionado who had sampled everything, there was a choice of desserts: a piece of habanero key lime cheesecake, or vanilla ice cream drenched in Toad Sweat Sauce, both created by Todd Guion of Chattanooga.

The writer is a Likud MK.

Yeltsin's revenge on Israel

MOSHE ZAK

Several years after Israeli planes destroyed the nuclear reactor built by the French near Baghdad, the French government offered to construct a nuclear power station in the Negev. In return, it sought Israel's agreement to its supplying a new reactor to Iraq, with guarantees that it would not be used for military purposes.

A team of Israeli experts went to Paris, examined the capabilities of the reactor intended for Iraq, and found that it could easily be converted to military use, in spite of the French guarantees. Israel turned down the offer.

I was reminded of this 1984 episode when I read the report from Moscow that in view of Western concern over Russia's supplying a nuclear reactor to Iran, Russia suggested joint Russian-American supervision to prevent its military use.

The inefficiency of supervision of nuclear reactors was revealed to everyone in the Gulf War, when Iraq was shown to have made great progress toward the construction of an atom bomb, despite the annual reports by the International Atomic Energy Commission that Iraq was not engaged in the production of nuclear weapons.

In its latest move, Russia displayed sophisticated diplomacy. It is trying to ensure American recognition of its joint role in central issues in the Middle East. Before the Gulf War, Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov's suggestion to link the Israeli-Arab conflict to the Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait was a totally rejected by the Americans. Perhaps Primakov has suggested joint supervision of the reactor in Iran as a precedent for Russian-American supervision in other parts of the region, including Israel.

US Vice President Al Gore did not reject the suggestion out of

hand. On the contrary, when visiting Moscow he released a report prepared by a joint Russian-American team on Iran's desperate efforts to get hold of nuclear weapons. The team made no suggestion on how to prevent this; it merely said this is Iran's objective.

The team's decision to meet again in six weeks shows that Russia understands the dangers implicit in assisting Iran to manufacture nuclear weapons and long-range missiles, but implies that it's

There is no reason to confront the US over Russia's military aid to Iran

all right to wait. Israel, on the other hand, is conscious of the urgency of acting against this.

It is not clear that Yeltsin is capable of laying down the law to the Russian establishment. His rival, Gen. Alexander Lebed, recently announced that 100 suitcase-size Russian tactical nuclear weapons are missing. Sanctions and tempting offers of compensation are no use in the face of such anarchy.

So it was unwise of our government to announce publicly it would encourage the US Congress to impose sanctions on Russian companies supplying nuclear or ballistic weapons to Iran. Given the disintegration of the centers of power in Russia, such a decision is hard to implement.

There is certainly no reason to have a confrontation over this issue with the US administration, which is opposed to legislation conditioning aid to Russia on an end to Russian aid to Iran's rear-

ment.

When Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was here, she requested the government not to encourage its friends in Congress to suggest conditions for American aid to Russia. This request can and should be fulfilled. It is not a question of principle or conscience. It is a question of tactics.

Even if the government is convinced that this is the only way to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, it is very doubtful this should be stated in public.

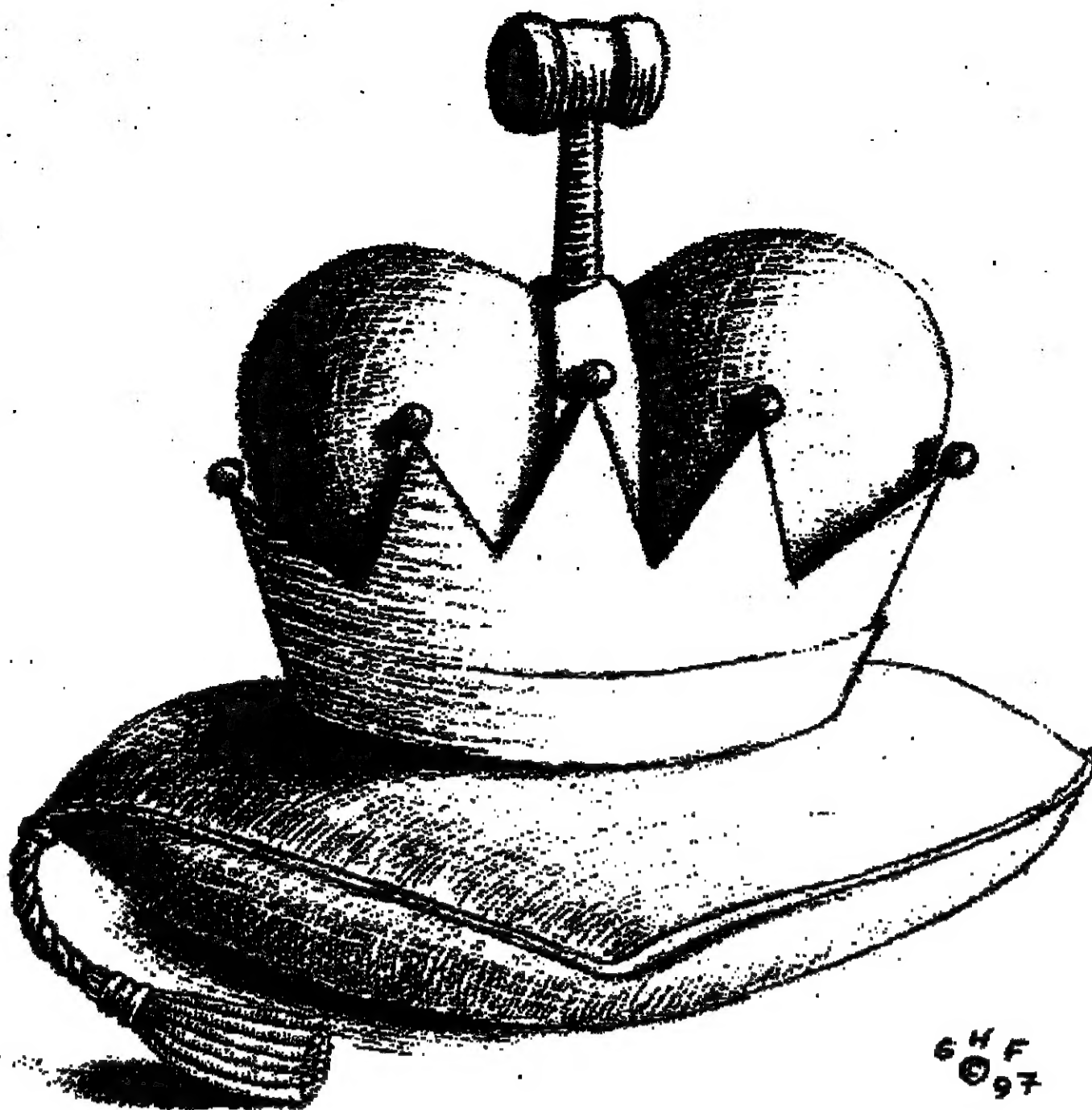
Twenty years ago, when US Jews asked their congressmen members to support the Jackson-Vanik amendment conditioning the granting of most-favored-nation trade status to the Soviet Union on its allowing Jews to emigrate, the Russians could only guess that Israel was behind the move. Israel refused to be identified in public as its initiator.

In the spring of 1975, the Soviet ambassador in Washington met with his Israeli counterpart to see if the legislation could be averted. When he did not succeed, Russia punished Israel by pushing for the Zionism-is-racism resolution in the UN.

Now Boris Yeltsin is taking revenge on Israel by stating that it, and not the Palestinian Authority, is responsible for the stagnation of the peace process.

The pretentious statement that Israel will push the US Congress to enact sanctions against Russian companies creates the impression that our government, which is having trouble enlisting support for its legislation in the Knesset, is all-powerful in Congress. The statement is foolish and damaging. It would be better to work with the US administration on this issue.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.



The Azzam syndrome

GERALD M. STEINBERG

When Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was asked about a pardon for Azzam Azzam, the Israeli Druse sentenced to 15 years for spying, he shook his head slowly. No presidential pardon would be forthcoming, he said, because Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had "insulted the Egyptian judicial system."

Even if Mubarak did not agree with Netanyahu's criticism of the trial, which was understated and would have been the natural response of any head of government, this is clearly an excuse and was not very convincing. But then Mubarak added the real reason for his decision, asking: "What am I supposed to tell the Egyptian people?" And therein lies the real problem of the Middle East - the continuing culture of hostility and the absence of leadership, particularly from Egypt.

Had Mubarak acted magnanimously and sent Azzam home, he would also have sent a long overdue signal of the need to improve relations with Israel. But Mubarak was worried about the response of "the Egyptian people," who are continuously fed a steady diet of anti-Israeli propaganda.

Mubarak has allowed himself to be led by a small group of intellectuals, mired in the myths and rhetoric of the 1950s, into a deeper and deeper confrontation with Israel. His passivity has erased many of the gains that were achieved when Egypt became the first Arab state to make peace with Israel.

Twenty years ago, Anwar Sadat defied the self-proclaimed Egyptian and Arab political and intellectual elite by coming to Jerusalem and declaring his readiness for peace. Sadat did not abandon the Arab position - in fact, his language was blunt and the negotiations were very difficult, with numerous crises and near-failures. However, by setting foot in Israel, opening a formal dialogue, and

placing his proposals on the table for discussion, Sadat demonstrated a type of leadership that was unique then and has not been repeated since in the Arab world.

Since Sadat, Egypt has been traveling in reverse. The atmosphere in Cairo is now more hostile to Israel than it was in 1977. The newspapers, including such mainstream organs as *Al-Ahram*, publish a steady diet of coarse anti-

Mubarak has allowed himself to be led into a deeper and deeper confrontation with Israel

Israeli and antisemitic propaganda.

THE arrest and trial of Azzam Azzam was remarkably similar to one of the spy serials on government-controlled television that feature stereotyped Israelis, complete with invisible ink and seductive El Al stewardesses. Israel is also blamed for everything from AIDS to putting aphrodisiacs in candies.

Journalists, engineers, lawyers, entertainers, and their professional guilds maintain a boycott of Israel, not because of specific Israeli policies, but because this hostility has become a vehicle for the affirmation of Egyptian and Arab patriotism. These Egyptians have lost confidence in themselves, and they blame Israel for their problems.

Unlike his predecessor, Mubarak seems to fear that any positive gesture toward Israel, however small, such as the release and expulsion of Azzam, would lead to a loss of influence.

But Egypt's problems are not

external, and have nothing to do with Israel. They are the result of failed economic policies and corruption that have contributed to poverty, social unrest, and terrorism. (The Islamic revolutionary groups inside Egypt that were responsible for the assassination of Sadat and for the continuing terrorism in Cairo are motivated primarily by economic and social objectives.) The climate of hostility toward Israel does nothing to solve these fundamental problems.

In fact, Mubarak and his colleagues, such as National Security Adviser Osama el-Baz and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, know that to achieve enough economic growth to survive and maintain power, the Egyptian government needs a stable regional environment. But by failing to take positive steps, including ignoring or challenging the old-guard "intellectuals" for whom hostility to Israel is a way of life, the Egyptians are further undermining what is left of the peace process.

Egypt was and remains the key to the success of this process in the long term. Sadat knew that without leadership from Cairo, the efforts to create an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual coexistence elsewhere in the Middle East are doomed to failure. However, since Sadat, the Egyptians have acted against their own national interests and the interests of the Arab world by attempting to isolate Israel.

If we are going to escape the cycle of hatred and violence, the Egyptian leadership, beginning with President Mubarak, must show the way. Mubarak can start by pardoning Azzam Azzam, and he will surely find the right words to explain this act of statesmanship to the Egyptian people.

The writer directs the Arms Control Project at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

The man who would be king

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

process of law-making by elected officials, but a set of values to be enforced by the judiciary.

The judge, writes Barak in *Judicial Review*, is entitled to resolve fundamental conflicts of values within society, consonant with the view of the "enlightened population in whose midst he dwells." In his search for the enlightened elite, the judge, Barak admits, will rarely have to look further than himself.

The Barakian judge is not

Knesset Law Committee and chief sponsor of the laws, specifically denied that they were intended to confer any new powers on the Supreme Court.

Nothing in the text of the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom, which takes up less than a column in the statute books, proclaims it the supreme law of the land - indeed Section 10 explicitly leaves in force all previously enacted laws.

Finally, the enactment of the

Barak shares with Frederick the Great more than a desire to advance his values with all the means at his disposal

bound by any societal consensus. Indeed the judge "must sometimes depart the confines of his legal system and channel into it fundamental values not yet found in it." In the basic laws enacted in 1992, Barak found virtual carte blanche for such enrichment of our legal system according to the views of the enlightened population.

He characterized those laws, in a series of articles and speeches, as a virtual constitutional revolution, "a powerful tool to change Israel society." In addition to the brief, and largely uncontroversial, list of enumerated rights in those laws, Barak has argued that they include a wide array of "unenumerated rights."

THE claim that the basic laws constitute an embryonic constitution is completely unwarranted, according to former Supreme Court president Moshe Landau. Uriel Lynn, then chairman of the

basic laws lacked any of the deliberation and formality associated with a constitutional revolution. Less than half the Knesset even voted on their final reading.

Barak shares with Frederick the Great more than a desire to advance his values with all the means at his disposal. For one, he does not take kindly to criticism. Attacks on his "judicial imperialism" are inevitably portrayed as undermining one of society's fundamental institutions.

Last week, Barak again protested criticisms directed at the court, conveniently ignoring the fact that the sharpest of those attacks have come from within the legal community itself - from academia and former judicial colleagues.

Like most kings, Barak is eager to extend his hegemony and ensure his succession. Using his power to pick the panel in any case before the court, he can basically determine the result in

advance. And by his domination of the process of selection of judges at all levels, he ensures the court of a steady stream of intellectual clones.

A legal lightweight like Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, eager to shed his image as a partisan bully-boy, provides no counterweight to his legal betters in the selection process.

Last week, Barak again rejected calls to make the court more representative. His preference for objective criteria of legal expertise would ring less hollow had the Barak court confined itself to the technical aspects of judging - a task, by the way, for which many of its members had no prior experience.

Instead Barak has consistently thrust the court into the role of policy-maker and arbiter of values. The proposed jurisdictional reforms he backs are largely designed to remove the court from the humdrum business of appellate review, and turn it exclusively to reviewing governmental decisions.

On such divisive issues as the definition of Israel as a Jewish state, there is no basis to prefer the subjective views of "enlightened" justices, chosen from an extremely narrow band of the legal community, to those of elected officials. (An informal quota limits the court to one religious justice out of 15, while a quarter of MKs are religious.) To the extent that such issues cannot be finessed, they should be hashed out in a forum where all segments of society have been heard.

The era of the philosopher king has passed. It should not be revived here.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

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NASA OKs astronaut's stay on Mir

By MARCIA DUNN

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — NASA yesterday decided to send American David Wolf up for a four-month stay aboard the aging, troubled Russian Mir station, after a pair of concurring, last-minute safety reviews.

Space shuttle Atlantis was scheduled to blast off last night, carrying seven crew members, including Wolf.

"This careful and thorough review of the shuttle-Mir mission analyzed risk, readiness, and fore-

most, safety," NASA administrator Daniel Goldin said yesterday morning.

"We move forward not only because it is safe, but for the important scientific and human experience we can gain only from Mir," he said. "As we prepare for the June 1998 launch of the first element of the international space station, nothing can beat the hands-on, real-time training aboard Mir."

On Wednesday, former Gemini and Apollo astronaut Thomas Stafford, head of a Mir safety

review panel, urged Goldin to send Wolf up.

"It's a go because we reviewed that the systems on board the Mir present no more risks than they have for the previous flights that have gone up there," Stafford told CBS' *Evening News* on Wednesday.

Wolf acted Wednesday as though he already knew the outcome.

"See you in four to five months," the relaxed-looking astronaut said during a gathering of friends and family at the launch pad.

Wolf, 41, an unmarried doctor and engineer who spent the past year undergoing cosmonaut training in Russia, has said repeatedly that he's eager to move into the trouble-plagued Mir.

Regardless of what Goldin had decided, Atlantis still would have flown to Mir to bring American Michael Foale home after a 4 1/2-month stay and to drop off a replacement computer and patches for holes as well as food, water and other urgently needed supplies.

The 11 1/2-year-old Mir has encountered numerous problems

over the past seven months, most notably a terrifying fire and collision that almost forced the crew to abandon ship. The station always has an attached capsule for quick escapes, and Wolf has said that in just about any emergency he could imagine, the crew could get to the capsule and return to Earth.

Many experts, however, believe recurring problems to be more worrisome: computer crashes, cooling-loop leaks, oxygen-generator breakdowns, and malfunctions in the carbon dioxide removal system.

Body of Sioux warrior returns home

By KEVIN LAMARQUE

LONDON (Reuters) — Sioux warrior Long Wolf began the long journey to his tribe's ancient burial ground at Wounded Knee yesterday, more than a century after his most glorious battle at Custer's last stand.

Chief Long Wolf died of pneumonia 105 years ago, while he was taking part in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in London, and his body had since lain in a London cemetery beneath a carved stone wolf.

Now his relatives have come to take him home. The casket containing Long Wolf's body and that of Sioux child performer Star, who died falling from a horse, was taken from the grave yesterday morning. The casket, draped in the Sioux flag and the Stars and Stripes, was placed on a black cart drawn by two black horses.

Followed by chanting Sioux in feather head-dresses and brightly colored blankets, it was taken to a nearby church for a thanksgiving.

The bodies will be flown to the US and then on to their tribe's traditional burial ground beneath the Black Hills of South Dakota.

According to his family legends, Long Wolf fought at the Battle of Big Horn in 1876, when tribes of Sioux, Cheyenne, and Crow wiped out Gen. George Custer's forces.

The autopsy on his body — conducted in 1892 by a Dr. Coffin — described the chief's body as "covered in gunshot wounds and saber cuts" believed to have been inflicted at battles with the US cavalry.

Rather than be buried into a reservation as was the plight of other Indians, Long Wolf fled to London where he joined the popular Wild West Show, which even Queen Victoria went to see.

His family had lost track of him and only discovered his whereabouts from British housewife Elizabeth Knight, who learned of the chief's sad fate from a book she



Jessie Black, the 87-year-old granddaughter of Sioux Indian Chief Long Wolf, attends a service after Long Wolf's remains were exhumed yesterday to begin the journey back to his ancestral burial ground in South Dakota.

found at an antique market.

The author of the book, adventurer and politician Robert Cunningham Graham, described how Long Wolf lay in "a neglected grave in a lone corner of a crowded London cemetery."

It took Knight six years to find Long Wolf's grave. She then set

about tracing his relatives by placing advertisements in US newspapers.

"When I found the grave, I made a promise that he would go home. I know Long Wolf longed to be at home at the foot of his beloved Black Hills," Knight told the emotional church service yesterday.

British donations paid for most of the £12,000 cost of returning Long Wolf to his birthplace.

"I don't know how to thank our friends who have reunited us with Long Wolf and Star," said an emotional John Black Feather, Long Wolf's great grandson, after the service.

Russian general: 'Suitcase A-bombs' don't exist

MOSCOW (AP) — A top Russian Defense Ministry official yesterday denied the existence of suitcase-sized nuclear bombs, saying such devices are technically possible, but too costly and inefficient to produce.

The statements by Lt. Gen. Igor Volynkin followed claims by former government officials that Moscow possesses the miniature bombs and has lost track of some of them.

"We fully control the production, maintenance, and storage of nuclear weapons in Russia," said Volynkin, who heads the ministry's department in charge of nuclear security.

He said it is possible, in theory, to build suitcase-sized bombs, but noted that the venture would be "very costly and ineffective."

"In this case one needs to create a whole network of new plants and a whole network of military units to maintain these weapons," Volynkin said in remarks carried by the ITAR-Tass news agency. "Such a suitcase cannot be kept in an office, from the technological point of view."

In addition, "a nuclear weapon in the form of a suitcase could serve for a few months, and then would need to be replaced. An ordinary nuclear weapon serves for several years," he said.

Warnings about suitcase-sized bombs were first voiced earlier this month by retired Gen. Alexander Lebed, Russia's former security chief. He asserted that of 132 such bombs, 84 are missing.

Lebed said the devices, which weigh 60 pounds-100 pounds and fit into a suitcase or backpack, were designed for sabotage behind enemy lines.

Caution: Canadians thinking

If you met an American with nice manners but no money, where would you guess he was from?

Yes, Toronto. But we don't hear so many of those hoary old jokes any more explaining why Canadians aren't Americans.

Recently, Canadians have been making it perfectly clear they are both different and defiant, when necessary.

In July, there was the "salmon war" between Canadian and US fishermen. Last week, there was a much more serious Canadian defiance of American attempts to fudge the international land mines treaty.

And — to get really serious — they fired Miss Canada International for taking a job with Hooters, the Tacky American (T&A) restaurant.

Gabriella Petivoky, the usual blonde leggie model who wants to discover world peace, decided while waiting to achieve that to pose for advertising photos for the cats company.

Nothing pornographic, you understand, but worse — tasteless. In every Hooters appeared a poster of a Canadian under a caption: "Caution: Blondes thinking." Weep on, Canadian womanhood.

The Thoughts of Ms. Petivoky for Peace may have had little influence on the politicians involved in the Oslo land mines treaty, but their backbones were undoubtedly stiffened by the publicity brought to the issue by a truly regal blonde — the late Princess Diana.

Minifields

Nonetheless, Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, who was a leader in formulating the treaty, deserves fulsome credit for his country's refusal to allow the Americans to make exemptions which would have ruined the initiative.

He delivered the coup de grace by announcing Canada will unilaterally destroy the last of its own 95,000 mines before the scheduled treaty signing in early December.

It was a good week for Canada — or it should have been — but one can always rely on politicians to spoil anything. Parliament opened this week under what an ancient Roman would have called "favorable auspices." The modern equivalent of chicken entrails are low interest rates, an export boom, rising growth, a downturn in the jobless, and a budget gruffing the edges of surplus. And don't say it in French — but even Quebec separatism seemed to be fizzling.

However, all the joy was drained from the eccentrically-named "Throne Speech" session that opens parliament, despite the Ruritania three-cornered hats and dull roar of impotent cannon that goes with it.

Following the June election, five parties share the 301 seats in the House of Commons with the ruling Liberal Party having a razor-thin majority. So no one was going to allow Prime Minister Jean Chretien to crow about a little prosperity carved from the fat haunches of social welfare programs during his first term.

Releasing partial recommendations of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy (COMA), the government said people who eat the daily average of around 90 gm. of red meat should also consider reducing their intake.

The recommendations were included in a report that COMA had been preparing for more than three years.

Other researchers have already established strong links between a high intake of animal fat, mostly from meat and cheese, and higher rates of cancer and heart disease.

"The average consumption of red and processed meat should fall; those with intakes at or above the current average of around 90 gm/day (about 8-10 portions per week) should consider a reduction; and those with high intakes above around 140 gm/day (about 12-14 portions per week) should reduce their consumption," the Department of Health said.

Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Quebecois, said Chretien's new policy "is a nothing but a big maple leaf."

Is that bigger than a fig leaf? Perhaps the premier should call Hooter's advertising department: "Mr. Canada here..."

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Call Dominus "Pizza economy," snarled opposition New Democrat leader Alexa McDonough. "Some get big slices, some get a sliver, and there's nothing new in the government's policies to change any of that."

One might ponder how that might compare with a Hooters economy, but McDonough made a bad start playing straight-man (no sexism intended) to the honorable clowns on the other side of the ring. She had referred to them, as the 155 Liberals sat

opposite, as those "who are pretty pleased with their record." Missing the obvious layer of sarcasm on that one, up leaped all 155 of the snuggles, amid much yelling and hooting, to applaud both for themselves and for Ms. McDonough's perspicacity.

The Speaker appealed for a new session of parliament noted for the brevity and conciseness of parliamentarians' contributions. He might as well have been in the Knesset asking for decorum and manners. He barely had sat down before the finance minister was on his feet

droning on endlessly about his own excellence and brilliant analyses of something called non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment — which appeared to be about more people being thrown out of work more slowly.

He got so carried away as to proclaim "Alan Greenspan [chairman of the US Federal Reserve] agrees with me." Members paused to see if he would stamp his foot and say "so there!" before yowling in amazement that any Canadian should think any opinion of any American could be of any use to Canada.

Medal with leaf

On separatism, Chretien in his first term followed a British model of feeding the provinces more autonomy in the hope of blunting any appetite for independence. Now, with opinion polls showing a waning of separatist aspirations, he seems set on holding up the central government as the standard bearer for national unity.

Baloney and balderdash, said Jacques Parizeau, the former Quebec premier and past leader of the Parti Quebecois, yesterday. "It's too late now — Quebec's only future is to go it alone."

A week ago at Calgary, nine premiers — with the exception of Quebec's Lucien Bouchard — agreed to recognize Quebec's "uniqueness." What an insult, thundered Parizeau.

"We've gone from founding people, to special status, to associated state, to sovereign country, to distinct society, and now — we're 'unique.' Next time, I suppose, Quebecers will be allowed to wear a medal at public functions."

Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Quebecois, said Chretien's new policy "is a nothing but a big maple leaf."

Is that bigger than a fig leaf? Perhaps the premier should call Hooter's advertising department: "Mr. Canada here..."

Report: JFK documents regarding Marilyn Monroe faked

NEW YORK (AP) — Documents showing former president John F. Kennedy made a deal with actress Marilyn Monroe to ensure her silence about their alleged affair have proven fake, prompting a television network to revise its planned Kennedy documentary and a noted author to delete a chapter from his upcoming book, *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

The alleged deal had Kennedy vowing to pay for a trust fund to aid Monroe's mother. In exchange, the actress allegedly agreed not to publicly disclose their alleged relationship.

Lawrence X. Cusack 2d, the source of the documents, said they came from his late father, a prominent attorney who Cusack claimed had done secret work for the Kennedy family.

Several handwriting experts commissioned by the television network ABC could not challenge the signatures of Kennedy and Monroe on the documents, the newspaper said. But other experts hired by ABC eventually concluded

ed that the main document in question was typed on a typewriter manufactured years after the date on the document.

ABC was to present a report on its decision on its 20/20 news program late yesterday, the paper said.

As for the documentary itself, ABC News president David Westin told the newspaper that no final decision on whether it will be aired had been made.

The documentary is based on the upcoming book, *The Dark Side of Camelot*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh. Originally slated for release this month, the book is now set to be released in November, according to publisher Little Brown and Company.

The newspaper said Hersh would not comment on the issue. But Sarah Crichton, Little Brown publisher, said Hersh made sure the book did not contain any material based on the documents. The paper quoted an unidentified source as saying a whole chapter on Kennedy and Monroe was deleted.

UK press gets tougher privacy laws

LONDON (AP) — The head of Britain's press watchdog yesterday outlined a tougher privacy code, including a ban on photographs of people in restaurants and churches, following the death of Princess Diana.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, indicated at a news conference that even editors of the raciest tabloids will go along with what he called "the toughest set of industry regulations anywhere in Europe."

But others were skeptical about how long the tabloids' new, restrained attitude toward the royal family will last unless violations are punished by huge fines and possibly temporary bans on publication. The commission's sanction is limited to having newspapers publish its critical findings.

The code bars publication of pictures obtained illegally or through "persistent pursuit;" bars media scrums round celebrities or ordinary people temporarily in the news; provides greater protection for people in grief or shock and greater protection for children.

DRIVE CAREFULLY



Street vendors in Indonesia sell face masks to residents as choking smoke envelops much of Southeast Asia from forest fires.

Smoke chokes Southeast Asia

By GEOFF SPENCER

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Citizens of six nations wheezed, coughed and prayed for rain yesterday, as thousands of firefighters across Indonesia tried to put out blazes that have blanketed much of Southeast Asia with a choking thick brown haze.

Millions have been urged to stay indoors or to wear protective masks against an environmental menace that has shown no respect for international borders or any sign of abating.

Many schools and airports have been closed. Clinics and hospitals are full of patients struggling to breathe. Others complain of raw red throats, stinging eyes and infected lungs.

Hundreds of fires, many of them deliberately lit to clear land, have been burning for months, blackening more than 740,000 acres and polluting the air.

Meteorologists say El Nino, an abnormal weather pattern over the Pacific Ocean, has triggered the worst drought in half a century and has delayed monsoon rains needed to extinguish the flames, clear the air, and save crops.

"Allah will give us rain," said one of hundreds of Moslems who gathered to pray in the smoke-draped town of Jambi, on Sumatra Island, where score of fires were raging.

Environmentalists have accused Indonesia of having done little to prevent the crisis.

Newspapers yesterday quoted Indonesia's Forestry Minister Djumaldi Suryadikusumo as saying, however, that more than 8,000 firefighters have brought

many fires under control.

"The remaining problem is how to reduce the smoke and haze," he was quoted by the *Indonesian Observer* as saying.

Neighboring Malaysia, where air pollution soared to hazardous levels when the smoky haze drifted north, has sent more than 1,200 firefighters to Indonesia to help.

The president of the International Worldwide Fund for Nature, Syed Babar Ali, who is visiting Indonesia, said the forest fires had grown into "an international catastrophe."

Malaysian activists and opposition politicians protested in front of the prime minister's office yesterday, denouncing "the lack of firm and effective action" to fight the pollution.

"We are surprised that the fires in Indonesia raging at such magnitude were not detected at an early stage," a statement from the protesters read. "We should have paid greater attention to the situation and helped Indonesia to control or put off the fire as soon as it happened."

So far, Indonesia has said two of its citizens have died after complaining of breathing difficulties. Another 35,000 have sought medical attention for the effects of smoke.

In Malaysia, a coalition of environmentalists and physicians says at least 8,170 people have been hospitalized. Another 15,000 have sought treatment as outpatients in recent weeks.

A health alert has been declared in parts of the Philippines and the haze has also enveloped the tiny oil-rich Sultanate of Brunei.

Britain warns red meat eaters of cancer risk

LONDON (Reuters) — People who eat more than 140 grams of red meat a day should cut back their consumption to reduce the risk of bowel cancer, the British government said yesterday.

Releasing partial recommendations of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy (COMA), the government said people who eat the daily average of around 90 gm. of red meat should also consider reducing their intake.

The recommendations were included in a report that COMA had been preparing for more than

three years.

Other researchers have already established strong links between a high intake of animal fat, mostly from meat and cheese, and higher rates of cancer and heart disease.

"The average consumption of red and processed meat should fall; those with intakes at or above the current average of around 90 gm/day (about 8-10 portions per week) should consider a reduction; and those with high intakes above around 140 gm/day (about 12-14 portions per week) should reduce their consumption," the Department of Health said.

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"The average consumption of red and processed meat should fall; those with intakes at or above the current average of around 90 gm/day (about 8-10 portions per week) should consider a reduction; and those with high intakes above around 140 gm/day (about 12-14 portions per week) should reduce their consumption," the Department of Health said.

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September 26, 1997 The Jerusalem Post

Caution: Indians thinking

Column One

THOMAS O'DWY

warns red me of cancer risk

course in English

'Offer some carrots with the stick'



Gillon: If Arafat could show his people some real benefits, he could do better in the fight against terror. (Aron Ross/Israel Sun)

Former GSS head Carmi Gillon agrees with the prime minister that Yasser Arafat could do more to fight terrorism. But, he tells David Rudge, Israel could also do more to make it worth the Palestinian Authority chairman's while to crack down on Hamas.



Soldiers are very much on the alert as they patrol the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall in Jerusalem after the triple-suicide bombing there. (AP)

Former General Security Service chief Carmi Gillon is convinced that the Palestinian Authority could and should do more to crack down on terrorism.

Gillon says there was a time when the PA had the motivation but lacked the ability to prevent terrorism. Today the means are available, but the motivation is lacking.

Gillon spoke to *The Jerusalem Post* after it was revealed that the suicide bombers who staged the attacks in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market and Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall, killing 20 Israelis, were from the West Bank.

Four bombers have been identified by the GSS as residents of Azira Shamalya, a small village near Nablus. A fifth Hamas activist suspected of recruiting the bombers, and possibly of being the fifth suicide bomber, has also been identified.

He was from the same village. Azira Shamalya is in Area B, under Israeli security control, although Nablus is controlled by the PA.

It is widely believed that the ringleaders and organizers of the attacks, from Hamas's so-called military arm Izzadin Kassam, live and operate from PA-controlled areas.

The fact that the bombers came from the West Bank is seen by some as vindicating the government's claims that the PA wasn't meeting the security obligations of the Oslo Accords.

Gillon, however, maintains that although Israel's demands on PA Chairman Yasser Arafat are totally justified, "the issue is much more complicated and complex."

Israel, he says, may also have been remiss in capturing the bombers. "The four suicide bombers in question had been on our wanted list since 1993," says Gillon.

"They were arrested by the PA but were 'lucky' enough to

escape. Since then they had remained wanted fugitives both by us and the PA."

The fact that the fugitives had eluded both authorities, "is the focus of the matter," says Gillon, "because it shows that if there had been full cooperation [between Israel and the PA] and real efforts by the Palestinians to crack down on the terrorists, the attacks in Jerusalem could have been prevented."

Gillon also notes that there is no shortage of recruits for suicide attacks and that the bombers themselves are only the end of a chain.

"The problem lies with the bigger fish, the ringleaders, planners, the bomb-makers and the suppliers and those who assist them - people like Mohammed Deif and Mohieddin Sharif and other leaders of Izzadin Kassam," he says.

"As far as we know these people are fugitives living under cover in the PA-controlled areas. Mohammed Deif, for instance, has been on Israel's wanted list since 1992, more than two years before Arafat came to Gaza."

Although Deif is also wanted by the PA, Gillon said he was "not sure whether the Palestinians are making any real efforts to arrest this man."

In general, he says, "it's clear that the Palestinians are not making the 100 percent effort that we demand of them to crack down on the terrorists. That doesn't mean that we expect 100% success, because that is really a mission impossible."

He believes that Israel has to consider the political and economic difficulties faced by Arafat, and the PA's status with the Palestinian public.

"At present Arafat is not giving his people anything. The economic situation is very bad and there are no real moves on the political front," says Gillon.

"The yearly income of an average Israeli family, for instance is about \$17,000, while

that of a Palestinian family is about \$1,000. Hamas is a social and welfare movement that provides people with services, as well as being a political organization with a radical terrorist element."

"Arafat and the PA, therefore, have to be seen to be giving something to the Palestinians on the political front, and something that improves their standard of living at least."

At one time, Gillon adds, when there was "secret and direct dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian security forces, we had some really impressive successes in preventing terror."

"At that time the political process was progressing, the economic situation for the Palestinians was better. There was talk of investment in Gaza and the West Bank, their future appeared brighter and the atmosphere between the two sides was much better."

"More recently, Arafat and the PA have not been seeing any light from their point of view, at the end of the tunnel, and consequently the motivation to crack

down on radical elements has been reduced," Gillon asserts.

Gillon maintains that Arafat, while known to be a political tightrope walker, is nevertheless acutely aware of the threat he and the PA are facing from Hamas.

His attempts to placate Hamas

Israel are contrary to the overall interests of the PA and the Palestinian people.

If Israel wants Arafat to fight terrorism effectively, Gillon says, "we have to try and show Arafat some light at the end of the tunnel. By this I don't mean a Palestinian state, but that the

security is better now than it was before redeployment to the present lines - despite the fatalities and casualties we have suffered as a result of suicide attacks," says Gillon.

"If we had the situation as it was before then, there would still be suicide attacks, in addition to an ongoing intifada - the drive-by shootings, petrol-bomb attacks, stone-throwing and numerous other incidents perpetrated by those other than Moslem extremists," he says.

Despite his belief in the need for better cooperation between Israel and the PA, Gillon reveals that the GSS began reorganizing as early as 1993, in preparation for the handover of parts of the West Bank and most of the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians.

"I think it is a form of propaganda on the part of those who say that we would have achieved greater success in preventing terror attacks had we remained in the territories," says Gillon.

"It should be remembered that we suffered suicide bomber attacks on the buses in Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan and Jerusalem more

than a year before the redeployment."

"In fact we started reorganizing after September 1993 to have new abilities in the intelligence field. This/bohrbruit last week," says Gillon, referring to the uncovering of a cell that planned to attack the mall in Jerusalem and kidnap Mayor Ehud Olmert.

Another benefit of reorganized intelligence, Gillon says, was the GSS success this week in identifying the Jerusalem suicide bombers.

"I know that the GSS has enough knowledge about Hamas and radical Islamic organizations, even though it has always been very difficult to infiltrate such groups, not just here, and gather real-time intelligence on them," Gillon says.

But Palestinian input is still needed to do the job better and prevent more attacks, he adds. Work to obtain early leads on bomb suspects "can be and is being done in the areas under our control, but in other places we need the cooperation of the Palestinian Authority."

"It is propaganda to say we would have achieved greater success in preventing terror attacks had we remained in the territories. We suffered suicide bomber attacks more than a year before the redeployment."

and radical elements through negotiation have only raised the ire of Israelis and have consequently impeded the peace process.

Yet Arafat could be brought around to taking more action against Hamas, Gillon says. He knows that terror attacks on

process is advancing."

According to Gillon's thesis, Arafat would have greater political freedom to act against terrorist elements if he could show the Palestinian people some substantial benefits at the end of the day.

"Overall, I would say that

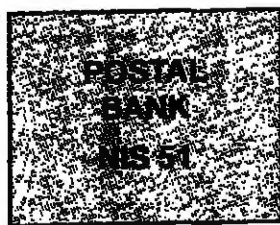
Israel Airports Authority

Head Office - Border Posts Division

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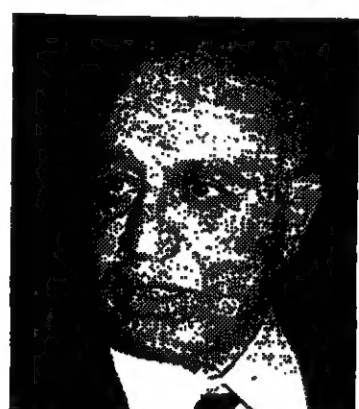
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The chairman's choice: Abu Mazen (below, left) or Abu Ala are likely candidates.



Who comes after Arafat?

Recent reports that the PA chairman's health may be failing have sparked interest in who might succeed him. **Abraham Rabinovich reports**

Yasser Arafat's trembling lips during a television interview and his despondent look in recent weeks have unexpectedly placed the question of his health and possible departure from the political scene near the top of the political agenda, for Israelis no less than Palestinians.

Ironically, the possibility elicits more concern in Israel than in the West. Until a few years ago, the Palestinian Authority chairman, who celebrated his 68th birthday last month, was the enemy incarnate — the symbol of terrorism and existential struggle.

But his image has since become more avuncular than evil for many Israelis. Polls show that the Arafat puppet is by far the most popular of those seen on the *Hartafim* television show. A connection between perception of the puppet and the perceived persona would seem likely. Even for many who still view the Palestinian leader as a terrorist, he is the devil-we-know and as such, preferable to devil-we-don't-know.

Many Israeli political figures believe that Arafat is the Palestinian leader most capable, because of his personal standing among his people, of making the concessions necessary to reach a final settlement with Israel.

Former Labor health minister Ephraim Sneh, who has close contacts with the Palestinian leadership, said this week that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking to weaken or displace Arafat, to avoid having to make the concessions Israel would have to make in a final settlement.

"He wants Arafat to go, in order to be able to claim that Israel has no

partner for peace," Sneh said. For his part, Netanyahu this week wished Arafat good health, but said it was irrelevant to him whom Palestinians chose as their leader.

PALESTINIAN figures are reluctant to discuss the possibility of Arafat's departure.

"I refuse to have my name mentioned in the context of any such article," said a prominent personality. "It's a very sensitive subject." In any case, said the figure, "his health is excellent."

The maze of internal Palestinian politics, hitherto overshadowed by Arafat's dominating presence, promises to engage the Israeli public in the event of his departure with the same intensity as party politics in Israel. The same kind of knowing analyses of the various Palestinian players can be expected in cafe discussions and on talk shows.

Dr. Menahem Klein of Bar-Ilan University is a Palestinianologist who has prepared likely scenarios which may be helpful in following developments. They contain suitably broad margins in which to pencil in unplanned developments, particularly chaos, which many see as a real possibility should Arafat go.

"It is a guess, a learned guess, that two main coalitions are forming within the Palestinian camp," said Klein. One he sees headed by

Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), widely regarded as Arafat's most likely successor, even though he holds no formal position within the Palestinian Authority. The other coalition, according to Klein, is headed by Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala), speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council. He is designated to take over as acting PA president until elections are held in the event of Arafat's sudden departure.

Both men are moderates with strong commitments to the peace process. But they lack Arafat's personal authority and they would be surrounded by king-makers in uniform with agendas of their own.

Abbas, three years younger than Arafat, helped the latter found Fatah in 1959. Born in Safed, he earned his doctorate from the University of Moscow with a thesis on Israeli politics.

"He was involved in the PLO on the political level, not with terrorism," said Klein. "He took the Israel portfolio, and was among the first to begin preparing for direct contacts with Israel. He was [Labor's Shimon] Peres's opposite number as overseer of the Oslo talks. He reoriented himself politically from Moscow to Washington."

"His problem is that he has no grassroots support. He depends on the Fatah establishment." Abbas presently lives in

Ramallah, where his construction of a handsome villa has drawn some public criticism.

Qurei, born in Abu Dis where he presently lives, was the Fatah treasurer and as such earned Arafat's trust. He entered the political side of the movement through a back door and was named to head the negotiating team at Oslo. He enjoys grassroots support, and in the elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council was one of the highest vote-getters. This popularity has been enhanced by the independence he has displayed as the council's speaker.

"He has shown that he is not Arafat's yes-man," said Klein. So much so that, more than once, Arafat has exercised his prerogative and sat in the speaker's chair himself during meetings of the council to keep a tighter rein.

IT IS not due to indecision that Arafat has not named either man as successor, said Klein. "He wants the competition between them. To balance the rising power of Abu Ala he has developed Abu Mazen as a No. 2, but without any legal standing."

Abbas's formal position is general secretary of the PLO, an organization which hardly has any function since the PA came into being. The position, however, gives him a back-door entree into the heart of the decision-making process.

Instead of holding cabinet meetings, Arafat now convenes cabinet members together with the executive committee of the PLO and the peace negotiating team once a week.

This grouping is designated as "the Palestinian leadership" and here Abbas, who declined to run for the legislative council, has his place at the PA high table.

In Abbas's corner, said Klein, are probably Jibril Rajoub and Mohammed Dahlan, respectively heads of the preventive security service in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the equivalent of Israel's General Security Service. "They can give him the organizational and grassroots support he needs," said Klein.

Although Rajoub himself has been mooted in recent days as a possible successor, Klein says neither he nor Dahlan have the political clout to aspire to the leadership reins. They hope, however, to manipulate developments from behind the scenes.

Qurei, in turn, is seen as building a coalition with heads of the uniformed police forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — Haj Ismail and Nasser Yussuf respectively — and with civilian leaders like Marwan Barghout, general secretary of Fatah.

"I can see both these coalitions as already in existence," said Klein, who is also a researcher with the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies. "The danger is that they won't be able to come to an agreement. Since the security forces are involved, that means a possibility of bloodshed and chaos."

See ARAFAH Page 11

Economic link or security risk?

After the recent terror attacks in Jerusalem, the Americans clearly feel there is little chance of wrapping up the package deal they would dearly like to see, comprising a settlement freeze and redeployment on the Israeli side as against a marked re-emphasis by the Palestinians on fighting terror. So for the moment, they are focusing their mediating efforts on the only things the two sides might be able to agree on: the loose ends of the interim agreement.

These are the Palestinian commercial seaport and airport, and safe passage for Palestinians from the West Bank to Gaza.

A Palestinian policeman attached to the Palestinian Authority's naval force guards the entrance to the construction site of a port in Gaza. The Palestinian navy is supervising the reconstruction and extension of the former Israeli port, not far from where Yasser Arafat has his office. No one may enter without a special permit, not even accompanied by members of the Palestinian security services.

What is the intended purpose of the port arising in Gaza, on a site very different from the one laid down in Oslo? A violation of the accords, charges Israel. Not so, the PA tells Lamia Lahoud

ty services.

Loaded trucks bring stone from Hebron and cement to build the dock. The Palestinians are also dredging the sea for rocks, a PA naval captain explains, since the Israelis prevent many trucks from Hebron reaching Gaza. (In the 1970s, the port was used for trade with neighboring Arab countries — Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.)

The engineer supervising the construction carries a gun and looks like a member of the PA's security forces. The Palestinians are extending the existing pier, he

says, and planning two new ones for a dock going 300-500 meters into the sea and stretching about a kilometer along the beach.

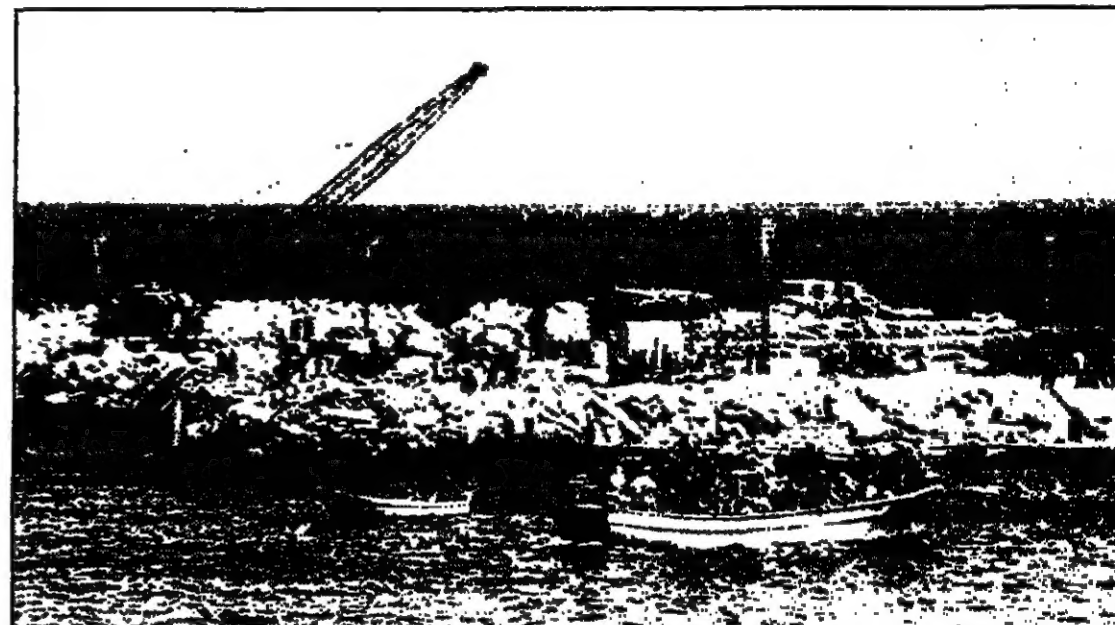
THE ISRAELI government says the Palestinians are violating Oslo by building on a site other than that laid down in the accords, before the sides have come to agreement. The Palestinians refute the charge. They claim that what they are building is just a fishing port. They insist that it is not the Palestinian commercial deep-water port specified in the Oslo agreement, one of the three issues

on which Israel and the PA were about to restart discussions when the bombs went off in Mahaneh Yehuda (the others are the Gaza airport and safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza).

But both sides agree that the commercial Palestinian port is the most important immediate issue — and the most sensitive one — on the agenda once negotiations resume. "The Israeli navy passes by almost daily, taking pictures of the port under construction," notes the captain. "They also pass over in their planes."

So the PA is building two ports in Gaza? Yes, answers Mohammed Dahlan, head of Gaza's Preventive Security Service — but this port is for local use only. It's a fishing port, nothing more. And as such, it's no contravention of Oslo.

DAVID Bar-Ilan, the prime minister's communications director, is very skeptical. He told *The Jerusalem Post* that he doesn't believe the PA's assurances concerning the port. "For a fishing port," he says, "they are building



The former Israeli port, under reconstruction: The Palestinians are extending the pier and building two new ones for a dock.

much too large a pier, and the water is deep enough for cargo boats."

The PA captain did indeed observe that the water, six to eight meters deep, is enough for small cargo boats, and added that the port would also serve the patrol

boats of the coast guard. "In the future," he said, "it may have other functions. It may serve private boats or the navy, depending on the agreement we reach with Israel."

Bar-Ilan doesn't mince his words. "This so-called fishing port

is surrounded by populated areas, which makes access difficult for the Israeli navy," he says. He believes this is precisely the reason the PA is constructing a port in that location.

"Our main concern," Bar-Ilan continues, "is inspection of the port and the cargo [that enters it]. We want to make sure that the Palestinians bring neither an army nor military equipment into Gaza through the port." He points out that the agreed location of the port was on an empty stretch of beach near Netzarim, south of Gaza City, where Israel would have easy access for inspection.

Dahlan explains that anyone who wants to put a boat out to sea, whether for fishing or recreation, must first register with the coastal police, who then inform the Israelis. According to Oslo, the PA's coast guards may patrol within an area of six nautical miles from the shore. After coordination with the Israelis, that area may be doubled to enable the guards to deal with Palestinian fishing vessels.

But the Palestinians are complaining. Most of the time, they say, Israel doesn't let the fishermen beyond the six miles under PA control — "a clear violation of the agreement," according to PA Gen. Abdel Razak Yahya, chairman of the security committee. After Mahaneh Yehuda, Israel imposed a closure on the sea too, Yahya said.

EVERYTHING is primed for building to begin on the commercial deep-water port, Dahlan says. The plans have been completed by a Dutch company. "Everything is ready. We just need to agree with the Israelis on starting construction."

The security chief estimates that the port will cost \$60-70 million to build. Most of the financing will come from Dutch and French donor money. Sameh Tarazi, the engineer who will be overseeing construction of the port and also heads the PA's negotiating team, adds that the Palestinians will cover about a third of the cost.

See LINK, Page 11

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David Levy's 'ties that bind'

Israel has not quit the peace process," said Foreign Minister David Levy to *The Jerusalem Post* in New York this week.

Levy was busy talking with his counterparts from Europe, the Americas and the Far East prior to a trilateral meeting in Washington next week. In it, the US, Israel and the Palestinians will be conferring with a view to renewing bilateral Israeli-Palestinian talks in the region.

Moving ahead to final-status talks "makes sense," Levy said. Logic dictates that any agreement depends on whether it looks worthwhile to both sides, he added.

The foreign minister warned that the process could become "bogged down in marginal issues" that come up in interim talks, causing the situation to explode.

"The Oslo Accords did not solve anything," he declared. "They only created a path to a solution. The complex issues must be worked out in final-status talks."

When Levy confers with Palestinian deputy leader Mahmoud Abbas in the presence of US Secretary of State Albright on Monday, he will be seeking a firm commitment from the Palestinian Authority: the upholding of its commitment to peace and an end to efforts to mobilize the Arab League against Israel. Today Levy is due to confer with State Department press coordinator Dennis Ross in preparation for Monday's sessions.

The "ensemble" created by the PA and Arab League, Levy said, "does not contribute to peace. This anti-Israel campaign fosters the impression that a peace process is under way when there is no gen-

The foreign minister took time off in the US this week to tell Jay Bushinsky that respect for the peace process must be mutual

uine peace process going on.

"I contend that there should be a binding Code of Conduct, in accordance with which respect for the peace process will be mutual," Levy said. "One side can't be making demands at the same time that it does not fulfill its side of the Oslo Accords."

These themes are likely to be among those discussed in Levy's address to the UN General Assembly on Monday.

Repeatedly during the interview, Levy hammered away at the PA's failure to snuff out the terrorist campaign mounted by Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Citing the discovery that four of the suicide bombers who blew themselves up in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market and Ben-Yehuda mall were Palestinians from the West Bank, Levy said "this proves the PA has not been acting against terrorism." He noted that Israel had submitted the bombers' names on a list of 88 other terrorist suspects - to no avail. "They pursued them, but did not catch them," he said. Levy charged, moreover, that the PA did not consult with Israel at any stage of the pursuit.

However, the foreign minister rules out abandoning the peace process because of intermittent acts of terrorism. "Not to proceed

so as not to be hurt by terrorism is absurd," he declared, rejecting the notion that any headway made in the peace process seems to generate terror against Israelis.

Levy would not discuss rumors about PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's health. "He is the man elected by the Palestinians," he said. "The peace process is being conducted with the Palestinian leadership, not just with one man."

LEVY HAD just completed a round of talks with China's foreign minister, and was encouraged by the outcome. "The Chinese have dropped their former intention to transfer a nuclear reactor, supposedly for peaceful purposes, to Iran," he said.

But the foreign minister refused to be drawn into the political debate now raging in the US over the pursuit of lucrative economic ties with the Beijing regime, despite its dismal record in the realm of human rights.

"Israel is not out to reform the world," he said, contending that if economic opportunities exist in China they should be seized without "intervening in Chinese domestic affairs."

Levy sounded equally pragmatic about Israel's diplomatic links with Russia. The overriding issue in his talks with Russian Foreign

Minister Yevgeny Primakov was Moscow's supply of long-range missile technology to Iran.

"If those weapons become operative, they will pose a grave threat to Israel's security, and then it will be too late," he said. Levy seemed to be implying that the Russo-Iranian missile deals should be canceled now.

Levy was generally upbeat about his talks with the Russian diplomat, describing Primakov, whom he has met several times, as "a very experienced man."

But he would not discuss Israel's potential retaliation if the Iranian missile threat is not defused, and refused to comment on reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called for a halt in negotiations with the Russians on the supply of natural gas to Israel.

Levy strongly protested Israel's exclusion from the UN's various regional groupings, which means it cannot win a seat on the Security Council. In a full-page ad published in *The New York Times* this week, he demanded that the UN Secretariat "compel our acceptance" to one of the geographical groupings.

"It took 15 years to amend the UN resolution that equated Zionism with racism," Levy recalled, implying that constant pressure will eventually succeed.

The foreign minister confirmed reports that his meetings in the US will include discussions with representatives of countries with which Israel has no diplomatic relations. (Levy's aides hinted that surprises may be in the offing on this score.) He pointed out that during his previous tenure as foreign minister Israel established or renewed relations with 34 countries, including China and India.



Levy rules out abandoning the peace process.

(Efraim Kishon)

ARAFAT

Continued from Page 10

Ironically, Klein sees less danger of this if Arafat departs because of a violent action. "In that case, the danger of chaos would be less because they would likely draw together against an outside enemy," he said.

THE LONDON-BASED newsletter *Foreign Report* said that Fatah leaders have named four possible successors to Arafat: Abu Mazen, Abu 'Ala, Faisal Husseini and Farouk Kaddoumi.

Although Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO Political Department in Tunisia, has been touted as a possible successor to Arafat, Klein does not think that likely, because of his absence from the region. Klein also does not see Jerusalem's Husseini emerging as the Palestinian leader.

"He doesn't have the power base to establish a third coalition," Klein said.

During the Ras al-Amud dispute, Klein noted, the Palestinian national leadership opposed

Husseini's attempts at confrontation with Israel, preferring to coordinate steps with the US.

Other Israelis familiar with the Palestinian scene say there are other plausible contenders for Arafat's job.

One named Barghouti as a possible contender. Another named Salah Ta'amri from the Beit Sahur area, a former ranking PLO commander captured during the Lebanon War and now a member of the legislative council. He was cited for his military record and charisma.

All this speculation, of course, may be premature. Maj.-Gen. (res.) Oren Shohor, former coordinator of activities in the territories, has met Arafat many times over the years and says he has often seen the trembling-lip syndrome.

"He's had it since he was injured in a plane crash some years ago," said Shohor. Others put Arafat's seeming despondency down to the political situation.

Sooner or later, however, the *rais* must step aside. Israelis and Palestinians may want to begin focusing even now on the figures standing in the shadows behind him.

LINK

Continued from Page 10

Yahya is the Palestinians' negotiator for all security aspects of the talks. He explains that the PA's concept of the port is based on the assumption that there will be a Palestinian state. But, he says, this shouldn't hold Israel back from okaying the start of construction, since work on the port will take about a year-and-a-half to complete. "And by then we may have wound up the final status talks," Yahya says.

It is operational issues like security procedures and customs arrangements that are the most sensitive, and the Palestinians feel these can be discussed at a later stage, when most of the construction is done. "In our studies," says Tharzi, "we even considered the possibility of trade with Arab states as far afield as Iraq."

Israelis tend to see the port in political terms, as a symbol of a state, he says. And they fear that in the future Arab states like Iraq or Syria may prefer to use Gaza's port over an Israeli port, once there is

peace in the region. But Tharzi insists that the port will serve Israeli businesses too, since it will be the smallest commercial port in the Mediterranean.

"Smaller Israeli businesses will profit because it will be cheaper and less time-consuming for them to import and export through Gaza rather than through Ashdod or Haifa. Administrative procedures at a small port are easier." According to a Dutch source, the port will have the capacity to handle boats of up to 15,000 tons.

Tharzi dismisses Israeli fears that the PA might use the port to smuggle in weapons, or for other military purposes. There are other ways to bring in weapons, he says, and Israel could always search boats on the high seas. He notes, however, that a captain might view such action as piracy, and that could trigger problems, even clashes.

Yahya says some security arrangements could be worked out on the pattern of those at other international crossing points, like the Jordan bridges or the Gaza airport. The nature of those arrangements would depend on the status of the Palestinian areas.

The Palestinians also view the port and the Gaza airport as an important symbol of independence and sovereignty. The most significant thing about the port, PA officials say, is that it will open Gaza up, that it will open up independent trade routes for the Palestinians.

FAYEZ Zaidan, head of the PA's Civil Aviation, says the Palestinians feel locked into the Gaza Strip. This makes it very important, he says, that agreement be reached with Israel on the airport and on construction of the airport. The ports, Zaidan adds, will help the Palestinians escape the stranglehold of the closure.

Bar-Ilan agrees on the importance of the airport and airport issues once negotiations resume. Israel recognizes that the free movement of people and goods is an important aspect of the Oslo accords. "Israel has no problem with this," Bar-Ilan says, "but it will insist for security reasons on inspecting who and what enters the Gaza Strip."

Bar-Ilan notes that the Dahariya airport, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, "is much bigger than

what was agreed between the sides. We have no problem with their having an international passenger airport, but we do mind their receiving military planes which can carry tanks or an entire army." Zaidan agrees that the airport - a fully equipped international airport ready for operations - can receive very large planes, but insists that the intended use is civilian.

The PA was close to reaching agreement with Israel on the airport before Mahaneh Yehuda, he says; in fact, the two sides were to have drafted a joint paper the following day. While major differences remain, he feels Israel is ready to come to an understanding.

According to Yahya, the main sticking point is the sides' differing concepts of security. The Israelis want to keep overall security control at the airport; the Palestinians argue that the airport is in PA territory, and so they should be in charge of security there. Zaidan feels that, with goodwill, special security arrangements can be worked out once the sides agree on this principle.

"It is an international passage, but not a border point, since it is

inside our territory. We must therefore work out special arrangements."

The Palestinians are eager to start operating their airport. Palestine Airlines is already off the ground, with offices in Gaza selling tickets for flights between El-Arish in Egypt and Jordan. The Palestinians have two planes, donated by the Dutch, carrying up to 48 passengers. Zaidan says they are planning to bring in more aircraft, adding Lamaca in Cyprus and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia to their destinations.

The PA already has bilateral transport agreements with Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Qatar and Jordan, and will start flying to these countries once there is agreement on the airport. "Theoretically, we can fly to all countries that have agreements with Israel," Zaidan says.

According to negotiator Yahya, settling the outstanding issues of the interim agreement satisfactorily with Israel would do much to build confidence between the sides, something that is vital if the deadlock on the most important issues - settlements, further redeployment and the resumption of final status negotiation - is ever to be broken.

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When upholders of the law clash

With Ras al-Amud, tensions at the top of the police pyramid have risen once again. Is there something in the job that makes it impossible for the police chief to get along with the police minister? Herb Keinon asks

It's not easy being an underling, even a powerful one. Just ask this country's police inspectors-general, both past and present.

Police chief Assaf Hefetz was summoned Saturday night to the home of his boss, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, to straighten out relations following a well-publicized spat over the move of right-wing activists to the Irving Moskowitz property in Ras al-Amud.

Kahalani, along with Jerusalem Police Commissioner Yair Yitzhaki, knew beforehand that the families would move in but didn't do anything to stop it. Hefetz thought they should have. Newspapers wrote of bad blood between Kahalani and Hefetz, of a sharpening of knives, a crisis of confidence.

If true, it wouldn't be the first time that the nation's two top law-

"Tension in the ranks occurs before the end of every inspector-general's term."

enforcement officials have clashed. Tension with the boss seems to come with the top police job.

Exhibit A: Herzl Shafir and Josef Burg. In 1980 relations between interior minister Burg, who was in charge of the police, deteriorated to the point where Burg fired inspector-general Shafir over a police investigation into the Interior Ministry.

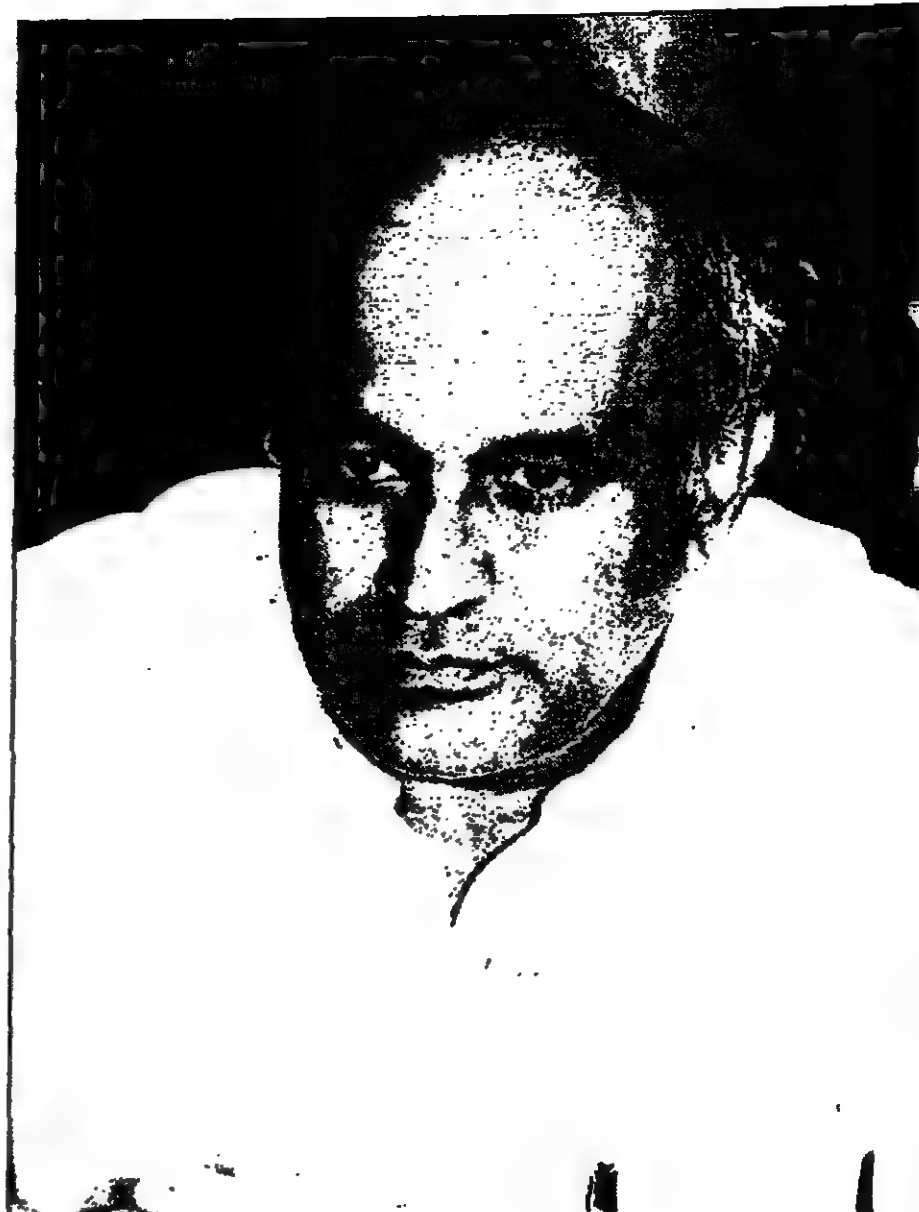
Exhibit B: Ya'acov Termer and Moshe Shahal. Termer was forced to resign in 1993 after he met with Labor Party representatives over the possibility of running on their ticket in a mayoral race in either Tel Aviv or Beersheba.

Termer's resignation came amid a tumultuous relationship with Shahal, whom he accused of interfering in the investigation of Aryeh Deri.

And now there is the Kahalani-



It takes two to tango: The relationship between Police Chief Assaf Hefetz (left) and his boss Avigdor Kahalani is not an easy one.



(Brian Hendler, Isaac Harari)

Hefetz tango. Their reported flare-up between the two comes just two months before Kahalani decides whether to extend

Hefetz's tenure. Hefetz has been in the job since May 1994, and Yair Yitzhaki is a leading candidate to replace him.

WHAT IS it about the position of inspector-general that generates so

much tension with the boss, a degree of tension that is often absent in relations between the defense minister and his chief of staff?

"Friction between the two is almost inherent in the position,"

commented Termer.

"The source of the inspector-general's authority is not only the minister, but the law. When it comes to investigations, the minister cannot interfere. This causes obvious friction."

Termer believes that this source of friction doesn't exist between the defense minister and chief of

staff because in that relationship the lines of ultimate authority are more clearly drawn, and flow from the minister downward.

Termer observed that whereas the minister in charge of police is a politician, the inspector-general is supposed to be a professional policeman, whose prime consideration should be security. These

perspectives are bound to clash. And this, Termer said, is apparently what happened at Ras al-Amud.

Hefetz was reportedly on the verge of resigning last week because he felt Kahalani and Yitzhaki had gone over his head in handling Ras al-Amud. Hefetz was apparently under the impression that the Jerusalem police, which had prior information, would stop the families from entering the house. He was flabbergasted when he saw that nothing was done to stop the move, which in his view, should have been halted for the sake of public security.

"This is something that would never have happened under former Jerusalem police commissioner Aryeh Amit," he reportedly said at an internal police meeting.

ONCE A disagreement in the top

In 1980, it was Herzl Shafir at loggerheads with Josef Burg. In 1993, it was Ya'acov Termer and Moshe Shahal.

police ranks became apparent, everyone put their own spin on it.

Some, led by MK Yossi Sarid, head of Meretz, charged that Kahalani kept Hefetz out of the Ras al-Amud loop because he did not want him to keep the settlers from moving in. That could have caused a confrontation with Moskowitz, who was a big contributor to the non-party movement that spawned Kahalani's party, the Third Way.

Police sources quoted by the media have alleged that Yitzhaki did not try to block the families from moving in because he is eyeing Hefetz's job, and wanted to curry favor with Kahalani.

Yehuda Eilam, a former top-ranking police officer and police historian at Bar-Ilan University, said that the relationship between Kahalani and Hefetz is generally harmonious, "although no one's talking about love."

There have been periods of tension, said Eilam, who describes himself as a "close friend of Hefetz." He said that the tension could get worse as the time draws near for a decision over whether to keep Hefetz in his job.

"Tension in the ranks is something that occurs before the end of every inspector-general's term," he said. "It is a natural tension between people, but the knives have not been drawn."

The public, Eilam said, "expects and even wants" to see conflict in the police, with the result often being a self-fulfilling prophecy. According to this pattern, news of infighting appears in the papers, which leads to arguments among officers over who leaked the information, which then brings more friction and infighting.

Eilam commented that Kahalani's military background — as a heroic commander in the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur War, who reached the rank of brigadier general — tends to give him a "hands-on" approach to the police. At the same time, Hefetz does not want a superior inspector general breathing down his neck. Eilam noted too that police work by its very nature breeds tension.

The relations between the country's chiefs of police and their bosses were generally good until 1974, said Eilam, which is when, in the years after the Six Day War and the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the police became involved in more politically volatile events, fighting terrorism and other security-related crimes.

Police involvement in the war on terrorism puts the police minister and inspector-general in close and constant contact. "Kahalani is continuously receiving information in events, and events are very sensitive. This is not a normal police situation," Eilam said.

"There is constant readiness," he added. "There is a constant need for information. The minister needs questions answered, and there is a great deal of information going back and forth. There is a lot of contact, and this increases the possible points of conflict."

Eilam added that, inevitably, communication is bound to break down at one time or another.

And a "communication breakdown" is exactly the way the Ras al-Amud incident was dismissed by police spokesmen after the meeting Saturday night at Kahalani's house.

Maybe so. But when communication breaks down over a sensitive issue like Ras al-Amud, and when it happens in the few months leading up to a decision on the inspector-general's job, it feeds all kinds of speculation.

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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

When he chased Napoleon out of Russia, Mikhail Ilarionovich Kutuzov was already 67, and a mere several months away from his death by natural causes. Field Marshal Montgomery still actively commanded troops when he turned 70. And a trigger-happy Douglas MacArthur might have soldiered on as an octogenarian had his fatefully insubordinate demand to invade communist China not been made at the tender age of 71.

In the always unconventional IDF — whose victories of 1967, '57 and '48 were led by generals Rabin, Dayan and Yadin at the youthful ages of 45, 41 and 32 respectively — such phenomena are unthinkable.

All this of course would have been perfectly fine if it weren't for the second-career problem our military leaders face once they hang up their uniforms, shorn of a clear professional identity.

Of the 14 major generals who commanded the IDF before the present Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, only one, archeologist Yigael Yadin, embarked on a second professional career. The rest — from Ya'acov Dori and Haim Laskov to Moshe Levy and Dan Shomron — preferred to overcome the anxiety, suspense and sense of burden accumulated over decades of shouldering supreme responsibility, by dipping their toes in the shallow waters of assorted public-sector jobs —

everything from Technion president and Zim CEO to Trans-Israel Highway Co. managing director and minister of labor. Some of them — notably Mordechai Maklef at the Dead Sea Works — actually became economic success stories. Capitalists, however, they were not.

And so, in the winter of '95, when a 53-year-old Ehud Barak joined neither a political party nor a state-owned company and instead joined a private investment firm, his move seemed for a moment to symbolize a big change in the national psyche. Back then, in the heady days of Oslo, Casablanca and the New Middle East, Barak's ostensibly mercantile move seemed to epitomize the zeitgeist: To hell with politics, let's all make money, and do it the hard way — not through a government cushion or a generous benefactor, but by braving the markets bare-chested.

Not that anyone expected the old General Staff Reconnaissance Unit warrior to don a wig — à la his famous role in the "Youthful Spring" raid on Lebanon back in the '70s — and assault the New York Stock Exchange floor in pursuit of some hostile takeover. But the public had reason to expect a reasonably durable run following his much-heralded move into the private sector. But that gig lasted hardly half a year and Barak, like so many of his predecessors, accepted a state job, in his case minister of the interior.

Evidently, life away from the top was unbearable.

None of this would have been bad had Barak actually had a gospel of some sort for this troubled society. Unfortunately, however, as social, economic and regional events unfold, we have yet to see anything in Barak's pro-

gram we haven't seen before.

Take, for instance, his support this week of Na'amat chairwoman Ofra Friedman in her clash with Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz over whether or not to impose a strike on Na'amar's kindergartens. Fairly enough Barak opposes Friedman's ouster since she was democratically elected (which, by the way, is more than can be said of Peretz, who was merely selected, following Haim Ramon's resignation.)

But why didn't Barak simply dissociate himself from the Histadrut's glaringly tendentious goal of bringing the economy to a standstill, just because the government is seeking to break monopolies, sell assets and avoid unfavorable pension arrangements? Because for Barak such a move would mean agreeing on something with Binyamin Netanyahu?

Similarly, Barak has so far had nothing to say — good, bad, anything — about the sale this month of Bank Hapoalim.

At stake, let's remember, was the sale of the largest business entity in this country, and the biggest-ever privatization deal in Israeli history, which, incidentally, was concluded at a price 10 percent higher than market value. The least we could expect therefore from the man who so recently toyed with a capitalist's pro-business image would be to have an opinion and share it with us.

Apparently, the new Labor leader appreciates this development, but prefers not to give the prime minister a compliment, even when he clearly deserves one. Barak would do well to remember Menachem Begin's unabashed "Well done, Mr. Prime Minister" speech following Yitzhak Rabin's handling of the

Entebbe crisis. The public, which voted Begin into office 10 months later, certainly didn't hold that gallantry against the Likud leader.

On the cultural front, too, Barak shows no vision, depth or originality that would set him apart from his Labor predecessors and Likud opponents. His occasional forays into this or that rabbi's court are spiritually, electorally and politically meaningless; such sojourns won't eradicate his kibbutznik's Judaic ignorance, they certainly won't win him religious votes, and they won't lure prospective coalition partners away from the Likud's famously warm bosom.

Finally, on the peace process, one is at a loss to see what distinguishes him from Netanyahu. On the one hand, it is no secret that Barak — like most Middle Israelis — was deeply skeptical of the Oslo Accords' feasibility. Netanyahu, meanwhile, has crossed Likud's dogmatic Rubicon, first by meeting with Yasser Arafat, then by signing the Hebron Agreement, and finally by endorsing a plan for territorial compromise in the West Bank.

In other words, the gap between Netanyahu and Barak is no longer the abyss which stood between Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres a decade ago.

For better or for worse, on the issue of territorial compromise, Israel long ago crossed the "whether" stage and arrived at its "how" successor. The role of ideology in this regard has clearly diminished. So why does Ehud Barak, who one may doubt ever had much of an ideology to begin with, insist on accentuating the differences between himself and the Likud?

Apparently, it's that second-career thing. "I," he probably tells himself every morning, "was yes-

terday No. 1 in the army, am today No. 1 in the party, and will tomorrow be No. 1 in the country. This is the beginning, the middle and the end of what I and my agenda are all about."

But alas, while Ehud may have his needs, the country needs a unity government, and badly so, lest it arrive politically exhausted and militarily demoralized at fateful negotiations — or clashes — with Assad and/or Arafat.

Beyond this, Barak should realize that after 30 years of endless arguments over the details of concessions for peace, Israelis are sick of the debate.

At the end of the day the public will buy any formula that generates stability and security. Period. The politics of the future will revolve around entirely different issues, whether religious, cultural, social or economic. And on those questions he and the rest of Middle Israel are just about where Netanyahu is.

The Third Way understands this reality. Shas is bracing for it, and Yisrael Ba'aliya embodies it, but Barak still lives in an era dominated by bickering over who has drawn a better map for the next negotiations.

Israeli leaders' most important crisis-management achievements — the Six Day War and the 1985 economic stabilization plan — came under unity governments. Conversely, the tragically failed Lebanon War and Oslo Accords, which alienated half the country, were engineered and introduced by narrowly based cabinets.

Judging by the successes of the 1967 and 1985 unity governments, our leaders need brains as big as Levi Eshkol's and egos as small as Yitzhak Shamir's. Barak, for now, seems to be endowed with neither. Shame.

Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM

Staying alive



Nitzavim/Vayelech

By SHLOMO RISKIN

"You are standing this day all of you before the Lord your God; you heads, your tribes, your elders, and your officers, even all the men of Israel." (Deut. 29:9)

This week's portion of Nitzavim/Vayelech opens with a verse that is repeated this day all of you before the Lord your God. Commenting on this verse (29:9), Rashi quotes the Midrash Tanhuma, which explains the connection between the grim warnings in last week's portion of Ki Tavo and this week's opening words.

Our Sages teach: Since the Israelites heard 100 curses less than in addition to the 49 in the Book of Leviticus (Chapter 26), their faces turned green and they didn't understand how they would be able to stand up to so many chastisements! Moses thus began to comfort them: "You are standing here today. You have greatly angered the Almighty — (you constantly complained in the desert, you worshiped the golden calf, you refused to conquer Israel) — but nevertheless you have not been destroyed."

This certainly sounds like a decent consolation. But Rabbi Yedidya Frankel, former chief rabbi of Tel Aviv, asks three significant questions. First, why did it take the second set of chastisements to cause the Israelites to "turn green"? The first set should have been enough.

Furthermore, the Jewish people seem to be recoiling at the massive number of curses — 49 from Leviticus plus another 98 from Deuteronomy. But last week's portion goes out of its way to point out that the specific number is hardly relevant in the face of the final blow: "Also every sickness and every blow, and every plague, which is not written in this book of law, God will bring about against you until He destroys you" (Deut. 28:61). So why does the number seem to frighten the Israelites?

Finally, asks Rabbi Frankel, why does the Midrash not use parallel language? If, with reference to Deuteronomy, the Sages speak of "100 less two" curses (apparently being interested in a round number), why with reference to the curses in Leviticus do they not say "50 less one"? Rabbi Frankel answers all three questions by suggesting another interpretation of "100 less two."

If we go back to the initial set of chastisements in Leviticus (in Behukotai), we discover that after the curses and warnings, the Torah includes two comforting promises: "Then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and also My covenant with Isaac, and also My covenant with Abraham will I remember, and I will remember the land." (Lev. 26:42) Two verses later: "And even this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, and I will not abhor them, to destroy

them utterly in order to nullify My covenant with them..."

What prompted the Israelites to turn green was that when they heard the 100 additional curses, they were without these two guarantees. If the chastisements of Leviticus hint at the destruction of the First Temple and its subsequent exile, and the chastisements of Deuteronomy hint at the destruction of the Second Temple and its subsequent exile, the Israelites feared lest there might not be a return and redemption after the second destruction.

To this end, Moses comforts them: "Atum nitzavim hayom" — You are standing here, aren't you, despite the Egyptian exile and enslavement, despite your miserable backsliding? You are the people of an eternal covenant, and your fate is sealed.

Undoubtedly, an American intermarriage rate of 52%, with European intermarriages at 75% (and 90% of the children of such intermarriages no longer identifying as Jews) must engender pessimism with regard to our future.

And the array of people threatening our destruction in Israel, coupled with the raucous internal strife so characteristic of Israeli politics, cause columnist after columnist to present Cassandra-like visions of an approaching Armageddon.

Certainly a drastic re-ordering of priorities is called for, and a new leadership must be developed.

But I, for one, am not so pessimistic. Despite Israel's many problems, the most optimistic soldier in the 1948 War of Independence, to say nothing of an inmate at Auschwitz, could never have imagined the magnificent accomplishments of the State of Israel — in size, population growth, economy, education, Torah study and social cohesion.

Moreover, in my travels around the world, I find a genuine hunger for Jewish values, tradition and learning. And many of the most hungry are often the children of totally assimilated parents and even mixed marriages. Wherever someone has something genuine to say, young Jews are listening.

Of course, our collective tragedy is that even after the Holocaust, the total number of Jews in the world continues to decline.

Yet I believe that those who choose to remain Jewish are all the more committed. And this minority of serious Jews is what Judaism has always been about! If Josephus is correct that at the time of the destruction of the Second Temple there were five million Jews, then the natural birthrate should have easily brought us to at least 100 million by today. Where are the rest?

We must conclude that throughout our history, we have lost many more Jews to the prevailing winds than to the sword. This is a tragedy.

Whoever is a Jew today is the product of the survival of the most committed. Moses may well be speaking to us today, after the Holocaust, in the midst of secular assimilation, and after several wars fought on the very soil of Israel: "You are standing here today, all of you, before the Lord your God."

Take heart! You are indeed the eternal people of the covenant!

Shabbat Shalom

Of lies and conspiracies

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

Two years ago this Sunday, on September 28, 1995, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chief Yasser Arafat ceremoniously signed the Oslo 2 accord at the White House. So far, Israel's Arafatocratic interlocutors have, largely with our tacit consent, ignored those provisions of the Oslo Accords their fulfillment of which would have indicated that they are engaged in a serious quest for peace. Most flagrantly, perhaps, they actively, repeatedly, every day, continue to violate Paragraph

16 of Oslo 2. This reads: "Both sides undertake to strengthen understanding and tolerance, to prevent incitement and hostile propaganda..."

In this they are religiously implementing the principle described by Aldous Huxley, "The propagandist's purpose is to make one set of people forget that certain other sets of people are human" (cited in *The International Thesaurus of Quotations*). And they do so in the manner described and perfected by Adolf Hitler and his chief propagandist, Josef Goebbels: "The great mass of a people... will more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a small one" (Hitler, *Mein Kampf*).

Among the most vicious of the Arab disseminators of antisemitic, anti-Israeli and anti-West venom are some of the Arab prelates. One of the most notorious of these is

Ikrama Sabri, Yasser Arafat's hand-picked mufti. Sabri's style recalls that of Arafat's cousin, Nazi-collaborator Amin al-Husseini, who was high commissioner Herbert Samuel's hand-picked mufti 75 years earlier.

On September 12, immediately following US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's 10-minute address to Arab schoolchildren in Ramallah, translated into Arabic, the Palestinian Authority's official Voice of Palestine radio saw fit to transmit the following excretion by Sabri:

"...America is the chief of the terrorists.... Oh, Allah, destroy America, her agents and her allies! Cast them into their own traps and paint the White House black.... [The purpose of Albright's visit is to support the Israeli position.... Oh, Allah, destroy America, her agents and her allies! Allah, raise the flag of Islam over the Aksa Mosque, Jerusalem and Palestine...."

In an earlier excretion this chief prelate of our ostensible peace partner had prayed for the world to hear: "Oh, Allah, destroy America, for she is ruled by Zionist Jews.... The Moslems say to Britain, to France and to all the infidel nations that Jerusalem is Arab.... The only relevant party is the Islamic nation, which will not allow the infidel nations to interfere.... Allah shall take revenge on behalf of the Prophet against the colonialist settlers who are sons of monkeys and pigs...."

Earlier yet Sabri had vowed: "Despite all the conspiracies, Jerusalem and Palestine from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea will remain Islamic until Judgment Day...."

Speaking of conspiracies: "There is a tendency in the Arab world to explain unfavorable historical events in terms of conspiracies." Thus asserts Mohammed Sid-Ahmed in the September 4-10 issue of the Cairo-based, English-language, semi-official *Al-Ahram Weekly*.

He goes on to say: "Only democracy can neutralize conspiratorial approaches and ensure... national thinking...."

One wonders — in light of a series of American conspiracy theories, from the one concerning the Rosewell, New Mexico, alleged landing of space creatures half a century ago, through the FBI's alleged assassination of John F. Kennedy, through the Kennedys' alleged assassination of Marilyn Monroe, Howard Hughes' alleged Watergate plot to unseat Richard Nixon, the alleged cover-up of the US Navy's alleged shooting down of that TWA 800 flight over Long Island, the royal family's alleged murder of Princess Diana and her Dodi to prevent her from marrying an Arab, to last but not least, the alleged Labor Party scheme to have Yigal Amir fire blank bullets at Yitzhak Rabin in order to implicate Israel's national-religious right wing the way the Nazis implicated Germany's left wing with the Reichstag fire 65 years ago.

Be that as it may, other Arab scholars have also testified to the Arab penchant for not taking responsibility. Sociologist Prof. Samia Hamady wrote: "As a result of his deterministic orientation, the Arab finds a good excuse to relegate his responsibility to external forces. He attributes the ills of his society, his mistakes and failures, either to fate, to the devil, or to imperialism." (*Character and Temperament of the Arabs*, N.Y., Twayne, 1960).

Dr. Fayed Sayegh, a leading anti-Israel propagandist in the US during the middle decades of our century, wrote: "The Arab is reluctant to assume responsibility for his personal or national misfortunes, and he is inclined to put the entire blame upon the shoulders of others. The Arab is fascinated with criticism — of the foreigner, or fellow countrymen, of leaders, of followers, always of 'the others,' sel-

dom of oneself" (*Understanding the Arab Mind*, Washington, DC, Organization of Arab Students in the US, 1953).

But we Israeli Jews, too, have developed the habit of finger-pointing, from which we ought to wear ourselves, quickly.

(Thanks to Dr. Joseph Lerner of Jerusalem for the *Al-Ahram Weekly* article.)

IN THE spirit of Ikrama Sabri and Amin al-Husseini, the PA's official organ, *Al-Hayat al-Jedida*, saw fit to greet Albright on September 10 with a "historical analysis" by one Nabil Salam, which concluded that "There is no difference between Hitler and Ben-Gurion."

Salam leads up to this with an assertion about "the shared roots of Nazi and Zionist thought" [which] explains the cooperation between the Jews and the Nazis during World War II... Many of us will recall, and others can find in newspapers of that period and in the history books, details about active collaboration between Hussein and other Moslem and Arab leaders, on the one hand, and on the other hand, Nazi Germany and fascist Italy and their collaborators.

Three days before the recent Ben-Yehuda mall massacre, *Al-Hayat al-Jedida* treated its readers to the following X-Files history spouted by "Islamic author" Safi Nasr-Kassam:

"There is no people or land named Israel/Israel is our patriarch Yacoub.... We are the children of Israel.... These people [the Jews] are the children of the Zionist entity, ... of the colonialist entity.... These Zionists are not fit to establish a nation or to have their own language or even their own religion. They are nothing more than a hodgepodge."

With these people we are to create a "New Middle East"!

E-mail comments to: moshe@post.co.il. Please include home address.

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مكتبة القدس

Fears of brutality to come

Amid the controversy over the IDF's presence in Lebanon, Larry Derfner ponders one problem: How to prevent Israel's South Lebanese Army allies and their families from being massacred if the army withdraws

About 3,000 SLA soldiers live with their families in villages in the security zone in south Lebanon and in the Jezzine enclave just north of the zone. Most of the soldiers' countrymen, especially Hizbullah, regard them as collaborators.

Since Israel established the zone in 1985, some 400 SLA militiamen have been killed in the fighting — roughly twice the number of Israeli soldiers killed.

Dr. Eyal Zisser, one of Israel's leading authorities on Lebanon and Syria, believes the SLA's safety could be ensured in a formal, agreed-upon IDF withdrawal.

Zisser thinks that no more than 100 or so SLA officers and their families — those who are seen as identifying politically with Israel — would have to be relocated here, or possibly in France.

(The family of Gen. Antoine Lahad, leader of the SLA, lives in France today.) The officers are essentially mercenaries in Israel's pay, whose past association would be forgotten.

"In Lebanon it is considered acceptable to switch sides according to the way the wind is blowing,"

says Zisser, a senior researcher at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. (He notes the example of Elie Hobeika, who during the Lebanon War was a Christian Phalangist leader, key perpetrator of the Sabra and Shatila massacre, and bitter enemy of Syria. Today Hobeika is the senior representative of Syria's interests in the Lebanese Parliament.)

A senior defense official, however, is less sanguine about the SLA's prospects in the event of an Israeli pullout. The official, insisting on anonymity, says the safety of the SLA is one of Israel's key conditions for a peace treaty, but adds that even if such a condition were agreed to, "I couldn't give [the SLA] a bank guarantee that nothing would happen to them."

He says each of the soldiers has 10 or so family dependents, making it simply not feasible to resettle them all in Israel. (Thousands of SLA family members living in the security zone commute to work daily in northern Israeli factories, crossing through the "Good Fence" at Menula. This is part of the SLA's deal with Israel, explains Zisser.)



SLA leader Antoine Lahad emphasizes a point to a smiling Yitzhak Mordechai as an unidentified IDF colonel looks on.

Furthermore, the soldiers have no connection with France, and France has never offered them sanctuary, the defense official notes.

Labor MK Gen. (res.) Ori Orr, who was in charge of Northern Command from 1983 to 1986, says the danger is not restricted to the SLA.

"There are whole villages with mainly Christian residents, but also Shi'ites and Druze, who have been our allies for 20 years. We're talking about thousands of people," Orr says, who would face massacre unless the Lebanese and Syrian authorities agreed to guarantee their safety.

After a peace treaty, Orr expects that the villagers and SLA militiamen would be safe at home, and would not have to be relocated. But if Israel unilaterally withdraws from the zone, he adds, they will be helpless.

Over half of the SLA fighters are Maronite Christians, with the rest Shi'ite Muslims and Druze. The commanders are overwhelmingly Christian.

Typical of their surroundings, the militia is rife with corruption and brutality, explains Zisser. "They're not righteous men, they're Lebanese."

IDF officials in the zone try to restrain the SLA's abuses, Zisser says. Yet El-Khiam, an SLA-run prison for prisoners of war in the security zone, is cited by Amnesty International as a habitual abuser of prisoner's rights. Amnesty places the ultimate responsibility for the prison on the SLA's overseer, Israel.

Yet even if the IDF stays in the security zone, Zisser maintains the future of the SLA is still a source of anxiety for Israel. Within another five years or so, the IDF will have to keep additional Israeli soldiers in the security zone to take the militia's place, because the SLA will likely have disintegrated by then.

Attrition has always been a problem for the militia, but especially so in recent years. Between the institutionalization of the Lebanese Army, the rising power of Hizbullah and the growth of the country's economy, the men of Marjayoun, Kleia and other villages in the security zone now have easier, safer ways to make a living than being mercenaries for Israel.

"They have heads on their shoulders, and they're asking themselves if what they're doing is still worth it," Zisser says. The militia men assume that Israel — which arms, trains and pays them — will be leaving Lebanon one day.

"They know that their future is with Lebanon, not with Israel, and what they want is to be able to return to their homes in peace," Zisser continues.

Here again, the Israeli defense official disagrees. Attrition from the SLA has always gone "up and down" and is no more worrisome now than before, he insists. The militia remains a viable fighting force "capable of dealing with the present contingencies," he insists.

Orr agrees. "The SLA has been through tougher times than this one, and while there are some desertions, the numbers have always been insignificant. The SLA will continue to exist as long as the IDF is there to back it up," he says.

And what happens if the IDF just pulls out? No one has the answer to that question.

GRAPEVINE By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Whoops! Wrong bank

Conventional wisdom says that what you learn in your formative years is what stays with you for the rest of your life. Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, who was raised in a Revisionist household, grew up singing about the two banks of the Jordan. That may explain his repeated slips when talking to members of the Council for a Beautiful Israel about plans to repurify the Yarkon river and rid it of pollutants. Try as he did to get it right, Milo kept referring to the Jordan.

ONE OF several speakers at the inauguration of a CBI exhibit, The Yarkon River — A National Asset, Milo followed Environment Minister Rafael Eitan. After goofing the first time over the river's name, Milo explained the political philosophy according to which he had been educated. "Now we're left with two banks of the Yarkon," he said, to which Eitan retorted: "We've barely got that."

THE WAY to a man's heart may well be through his stomach, but the way to a woman's heart is through her fortune teller. Knowing this, Michael and Assi Aviv, proprietors of Picasso restaurants, catering and services, provided both at the launch of their new season's menus at their Herzliya Pituah banquet hall. Black-garbed hostesses wearing high, pointed wigs' hats ushered guests into the hall. The men made a beeline for the well-laden buffet, while women lined up in front of the booths of palm-reader Aliza Gabai-Krashevski, facial line reader Sylvie Shalom, crystals reader Timna, numerologist

Frederica and tarot-card reader Michael Okdal. Their regular clientele include politicians and top-notch business executives. A tip from Timna, who plans to open a center of Native American mysticism and healing in Galilee: If you don't like taking medication and suffer from headaches and sinus complaints, place an amethyst on your "third eye." The problem should clear up quickly.

FACES of Israeli female models on the covers of international fashion magazines and as promoters for a variety of luxury products have become par for the course. But male models are also making their mark. Suave-looking Yaron Fink hit the big time in France and Italy several years ago. More recently Rene Bauman attracted attention in New York. Now it's the turn of 25-year-old model and local TV soap-opera star Liron Levo, who has been commissioned to model for the catalog of DRN London. Levo's macho image will be enhanced abroad by the inclusion in his CV that he served with an elite military unit in the IDF.

POMP and ceremony is usually carried out on a red carpet, but Ronit and Mickey Mor and Patrick Malek, proprietors of Premier, the Israel representative for Guy Laroche, Nina Ricci, Cerruti 1881, Chloe and Christian Dior, opted for royal blue — the dominant color in the decor of their exclusive north Tel Aviv store. This week, to celebrate receipt of a limited edition of the Guy Laroche winter collection designed by Shenkar College graduate and new star in the Paris fashion galaxy Albert Elbaz, they rolled out the blue carpet on Dizengoff Street and showed off the garments. Invited guests dined on caviar and smoked salmon and quaffed champagne while they watched. Latecomers didn't miss out. The show was repeated at 20-minute intervals. Inside, anyone who wanted to see more of the collection could watch a CNN video which featured Elbaz himself.

CZECH mate. Since the Czechs were among Israel's best friends during the War of Independence and continued to cooperate on unofficial levels after diplomatic ties were severed in 1967, it was not surprising that Czech President Vaclav Havel should stroll along Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda Mall during his visit here. Declaring that he was not afraid to come to Israel Havel, who had familiarized himself with the mall during his previ-

ous visit seven years ago, said that coffee houses and cafes are part of the social life of every country. For Reuma Weizman who, together with her husband President Ezer Weizman accompanied Havel through the mall, it was a second visit since the recent bomb explosion.

MONEY always helps make weddings a little more memorable — and when money is no object, the memory lingers as much in the minds of the guests as in the minds of the bride and groom. When Rebecca Gutman and David Boark got married at the Princess Hotel in Eilat this week, 300 guests were flown in from Germany and food and drink flowed in abundance. The fireworks alone, let off at the end of the ceremony, cost \$2,500. The flowers, \$1,700. Yet both items were among the lesser budgetary considerations in the million-dollar affair. To top it all off, the bride is a genuine beauty, with the face and figure of a model, while the groom bears a distinct resemblance to film star Bruce Willis.

The hotel is currently preparing for a similar extravaganza next week, except that this time the guests are being flown in from France.

Among the European social set, a luxury oasis in a desert setting is apparently the in thing.

SPARKS should fly tomorrow morning at Yad Lebanon in Herzliya, when radio and television newsman Moshe Nestelbaum interviews business entrepreneur Galia Albin and Likud MK Ruby Rivlin. Albin, who will be questioned on the relationship between politics and business, initiated and bank-rolled a failed campaign to have Dan Meridor nominated and elected as prime minister. She will no doubt have a few caustic things to say about the present incumbent, Rivlin, who if he weren't a lawyer and a politician would make an admirable comedian, will answer questions about the regression in the peace process. Since both Albin and Rivlin are inclined to go off on their own tangents, the audience at the event, sponsored by the Herzliya Municipality's Cultural Department, is bound to come away both entertained and informed.

UNDER construction for well over a year and a half, the renovated official residence of the prime minister is almost ready for occupancy. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his family are expected to move in early in the new year, if not in time for Rosh Hashana itself. The prime minister inspected the premises earlier this month, giving residents of Balfour and Smolenskin streets a sense of the beefed-up security they can anticipate in the near future. The word going around the construction workers' grapevine is that the project would have been completed months ago, but for the fact that Sara Netanyahu keeps changing her mind about what she wants.

HOW MANY times can you play a role without getting tired of it? Haim Topol has given 1,800 performances as Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof — and is still not bored with the part. He will star in a new updated million-dollar-plus version of the internationally acclaimed production, which will be staged in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, starting December 21. Rivka Raz will co-star as Golda.

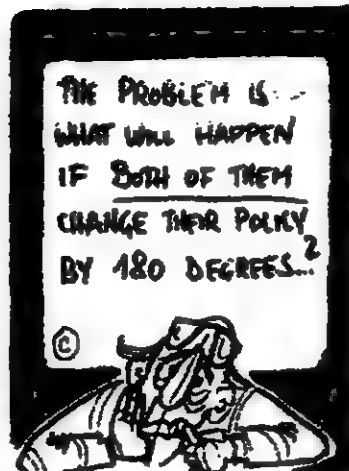
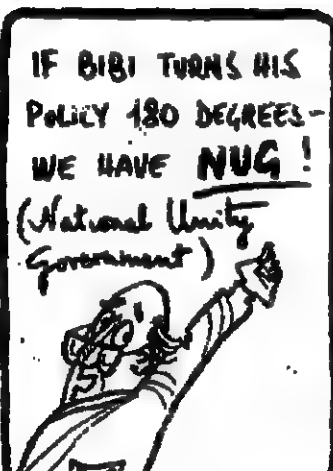
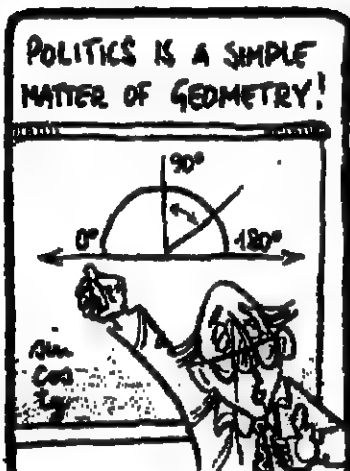
NO PLAN is perfect. No matter how many contingencies one takes into account, there's always the chance that the best-laid plans will go astray. A case in point was producer Steven Spielberg, who missed the Los Angeles premiere of The Peacemaker, starring George Clooney and Kate Capshaw. Instead of sitting in a movie theater watching the first feature film by his Dreamworks SKG production company, Spielberg was being examined at the Cedars of Lebanon hospital. The reason: The Lincoln in which he and his wife, Kate Capshaw, were being driven to the premiere, collided with a Toyota. Spielberg was lightly injured and released the same day, but not in time to make the premiere.



Liron Levo is making it big as a model in London.

BRULIK

by DOSH



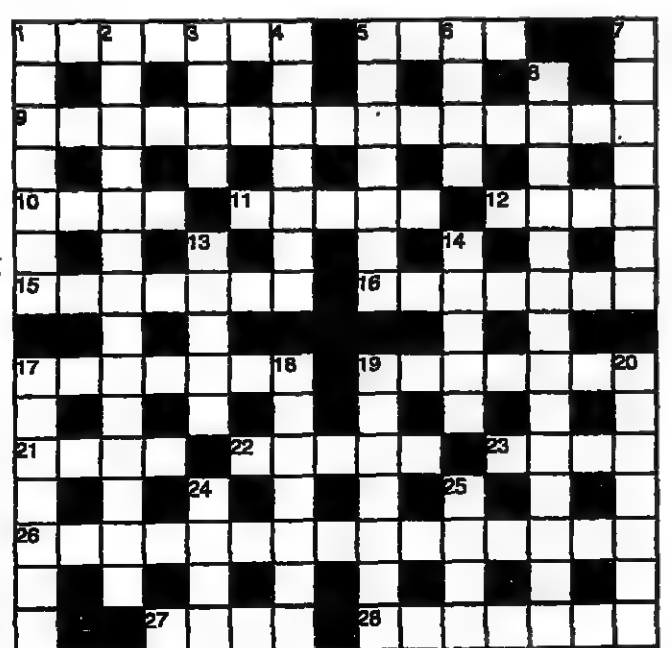
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Contract in a card game (7)
- 5 Poor gypsies gold wild party (4)
- 9 Bressed off to see romantic film? (4,4,3,4)
- 10 Issues period return (4)
- 11 Fall behind, right in the rear (5)
- 12 Type of illness universal in later years (4)
- 15 Able to see the digs need repair (7)
- 16 Warmth applied to woman's plant (7)
- 17 Check detainee one, before man returns from Asian country (7)
- 19 Criticize a revolutionary's grand style (7)
- 21 Blow second circuit (4)
- 22 Starting a violent attack (5)
- 23 Glen, goodbye! (4)
- 26 The main area of alleged disappearances (7,8)
- 27 Conservative is depressed (4)
- 28 Going over Tristan in translation (7)

DOWN

- 1 African city is large and confusing (7)
- 2 Making haste; goes for minor adjustments (7,7)
- 3 At a disadvantage with this type of cine (4)
- 4 Recorded tree fell in the end (7)



SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1. Jean, 3. Satchel, 5. Jaws, 10. Advice, 11. Tug, 13. Goliath, 14. Invade, 16. Ideal, 18. Parachute, 20. Elf, 22. Leaning, 23. Drake, 25. Disperse, 26. Fort.
DOWN: 1. Joint, 2. Elf, 4. Rabbie, 5. Ravaged, 6. Castigate, 7. Lurpess, 8. Brag, 13. Governance, 14. Impaled, 15. Decline, 17. Judge, 19. Eddy, 21. Fleet, 24. Ade.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Grain (6)
- 4 Numeral (6)
- 7 Without purpose (9)
- 9 Firing oven (4)
- 10 Astronaut (4)
- 11 French wine (5)
- 13 Exhilarated (6)
- 14 Slice of bacon (6)
- 15 Dextrous (6)
- 17 Largest US state (6)
- 19 Lorry (5)
- 20 Enormous (4)
- 22 Enticement for prey (4)
- 23 Redemption (9)
- 24 Voting paper (6)
- 25 Wine container (6)

DOWN

- 1 Raucous laugh (6)
- 2 Ireland (4)
- 3 Lounged (6)
- 4 Old Greek sage (6)
- 5 Dried barley (4)
- 6 Roofing beam (6)
- 7 Oceanic bird (9)
- 8 Sailing enthusiast (9)
- 11 Deserve (5)
- 12 Make watertight (5)
- 15 Part of speech (6)
- 16 Three-legged stand (6)
- 17 Vinegary (6)
- 18 Energetic (6)
- 21 Rear end (4)
- 23 African (4)

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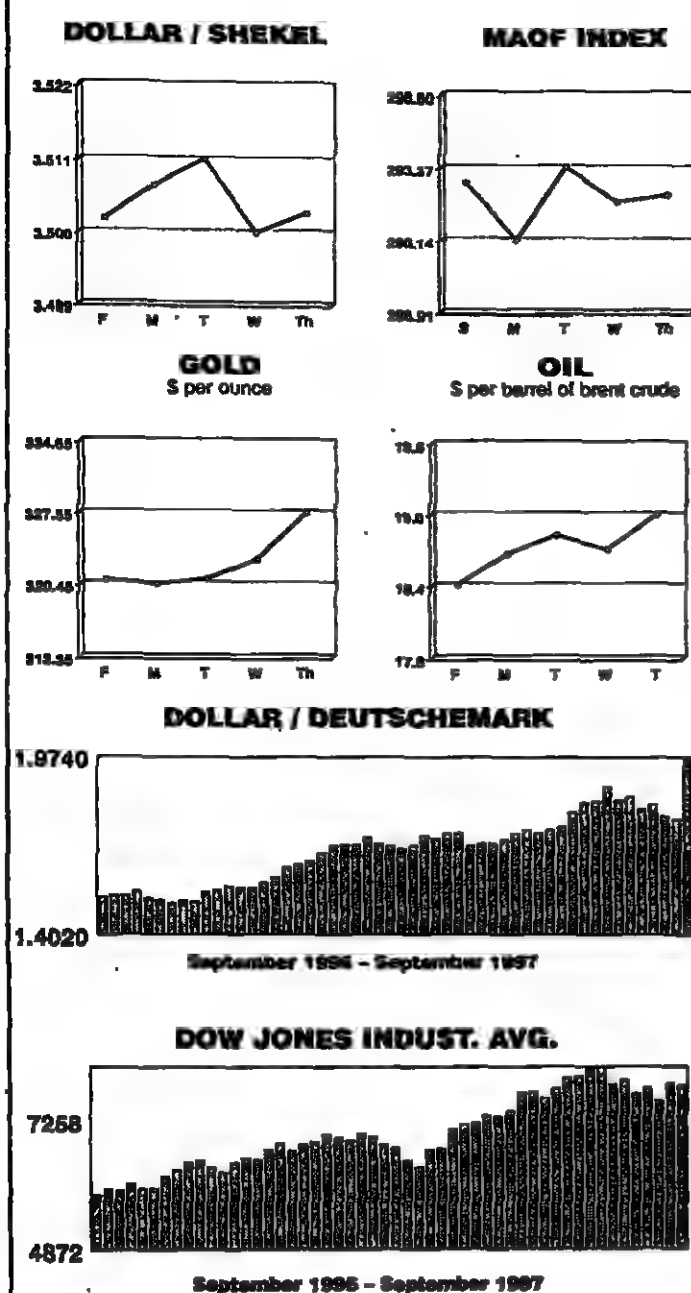
Friday,
September 26, 1997

BUSINESS & FINANCE

15

MARKETS

in brief



Mitsubishi president visits Technion

Mitsubishi International president N. Okada, visited the Technion's scientific incubators this week to study them and look for possible targets for investment. He and two senior Mitsubishi officials from Europe and one from its local branch met with representatives of Suresh (which deals with surfaces treated by lasers to prevent wear) and SVIS (for computer communications coding). They went on to two start-up firms which began as incubators, Tadin in Migdal Ha'emek and Nanomotion in Yokne'am. Okada said his company wants to invest in local firms that can market products to the Japanese market.

Judy Siegel

Frankel meets Indonesian counterpart

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel yesterday met his counterpart from Indonesia, Soedradjat Djiwandono, to discuss the financial crisis in Thailand and its implications in Asia. Before returning from the annual International Monetary Fund/World Bank gathering in Hong Kong, Frankel also held talks with Russian Finance Minister Anatoly Chubais.

David Harris

Arison: We won't fire Hapoalim workers

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Ted Arison, who heads the group which earlier this month won the tender for the purchase of Bank Hapoalim, said yesterday he does not intend to dismiss any of the bank's workers.

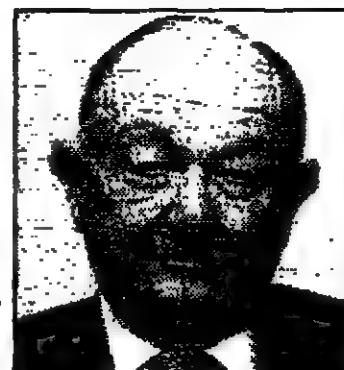
He also said he hopes to get the Knesset's approval for the deal in the next few days.

The Finance Committee twice this week failed to approve the sale, claiming that the agreement does not adequately protect workers' rights. Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) is attempting to resolve the differences between MKs and MI Holdings - the company in charge of selling government bank holdings - before the committee reconvenes on Monday.

Arison, the founder of the Miami-based cruise ship operator Carnival Corp., rejected workers' demands for further assurances. "We signed the contract after very long negotiations," he said. "It's not fair to come now, after the agreement was signed, and we committed ourselves to fulfill all of the workers' demands. We don't like doing business in such a way."

Arison added that during the last few years he purchased 10 companies for \$4 billion to \$5 billion, and no workers were fired.

"I don't believe in buying a factory, destroying it and then putting it together again," he said. "The



Arison: Makes a promise to workers.



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best workers in the banking sector are in Bank Hapoalim."

The Arison group purchased a 43% share in the bank for NIS 4.8 billion. Arison stated that the group plans to exercise its option to acquire an additional 21.5% at the same price per share within 18 months.

The businessman said that he will try to expand the international activity of the bank, especially in the fields of services and counseling.

"The bank's branches abroad are linked to Diaspora Jewry and are not active in other fields of international banking, such as futures and foreign exchange."

Arison, who returned to Israel after living abroad for almost 40 years, said that the Israeli economy is in excellent shape.

"Besides England, there is no economy in Europe that is as balanced and good as the Israeli one," he said.

For several of Arison's American partners, the Hapoalim deal was their first investment in Israel, but they say they are interested in making additional investments.

"They fell in love with the country and now I have the backing of tens and hundreds of billions of dollars for further investments in Israel," he said.

Arison partners include the Dankner family; Len Abramson, the founder of US Healthcare Inc.; veteran Wall Street financier Michael Steinhardt; Charles Shusterman and Hyperion Capital Management.

Last week, Arison Investments,

Somekh declines to head bank

Accountant Gad Somekh has decided not to accept the offer to be nominated as chairman of the board of directors of Bank Hapoalim, sources in the company said yesterday.

Somekh, one of the senior partners in Israel's second-largest accounting firm, Somekh-Chaikin, refused to comment. He was also not willing to speak about the possible merger with accounting firm Kesselman & Kesselman following the planned joining of international accounting giants Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse.

The Arison Group, which purchased controlling stake in the bank earlier this month, said it was looking for a candidate to replace Emanuel Sharon.

One of the names mentioned by the press for the job, besides Somekh, was banking executive Jeffrey Keil, who, together with Eliezer Fishman, led the group that lost the bid for the bank. Banking sources, however, dismissed this rumor.

The chairman of the board of directors will have to work together with general manager Amiram Sivan, who will continue to work at the bank.

Ted Arison, said yesterday that Sivan is the best banker in Israel and one of the best in the world. "We will offer him enough money to stay with us until he decides to retire," he said.

D.G.

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Len Abramson and Prof. Benad Goldwasser announced the establishment of an investment company, with \$20 million in capital, designed for the biotechnology, medical devices and pharmaceutical sector.

In addition, the Arison fund intends to lead another group that will invest \$70 million in high-tech companies. European investors, especially from Germany, are also interested in joining the group and investing in Israel, he added.

Arison, who suffered from can-

cer, denied rumors that he is very ill, saying: "I have just recovered from the disease that lasted for five months and my doctors promised that it won't come back."

He added that he expects that the beneficiaries of his will won't fight over the control of his business.

"We will not go through something similar to what happened in the Eisenberg family because I'm giving my heirs all I have got in cash while I am still alive," he said.

Locals help hotels offset decline in foreign visitors

By HANI SHAPIRO

Israelis accounted for almost two-thirds of those staying in local hotels this summer, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

The figures reflect a continuing drop in the number of tourists coming from abroad and at the same time an increase in internal tourism.

According to Avi Rosental, director of the Hotel Association, the drop in tourism from abroad was a direct result of political instability and terror.

"The geo-political situation in Israel hits hardest in the area of tourism," Rosental said.

If there were quiet and stability in the region, he was sure it would be positively reflected in the number of tourists coming to Israel, especially for the state's 50th anniversary. Yom Ha'atzmaut falls on April 30, but there are celebrations planned throughout the year.

The CBS said that there were a total of 3.6 million bed-nights during July and August, with an average occupancy rate of 70 percent, compared to 71% for last summer and 75% for the summer of 1995.

This year, the bureau said, Israelis accounted for 64% of all bed nights, in July and August of last year they were 62%. During the same period two years ago the Israelis constituted between 54% and 55%.

During the first eight months of the year, the same factors - a decline in stays by foreign tourists and increase in the number of local tourists - resulted in a slight decline of one percent in the number of bed-nights compared to the same period last year. The bureau noted that the trends were unstable during the summer, with a slight increase in the number of tourists from abroad during July and a drop in their number during August, following the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing.

In recent months, El Al has been reporting that more than 50% of its passengers have been Israelis, many of them vacationing abroad.

As for the coming holidays, the Hotel Association said that it expected high occupancy rates throughout the country, primarily because of Israelis staying at local hotels.



Mongolian students protest

Over 1,000 Mongolian University students demonstrate yesterday in the streets of the capital, Ulaanbaatar. The students were protesting against increased university fees and demanding the government take action for more progressive policies in educational institutions.

(Reuters)

Battle launched for control of Yediot shares

Globes Business News

"Perhaps now Yediot Aharonot will be run like a newspaper with a businesslike approach, and not through wars," lawyers representing the parties in the dispute between Yediot Aharonot's shareholders said yesterday.

They were speaking in the wake of the purchase of Ze'ev Mozes's shares by Eliezer Fishman and Bar-On acquired 12.5% of the group's shares, and made an offer to purchase another 12.3% held by Ze'ev Mozes.

The other shareholders in Yediot - Amnon Mozes, Oded Mozes, Tami Mozes-Borowitz, Judy Nir-Mozes, Miriam Nofech-Mozes, and the Yudkovsky family - have first right of refusal on the remaining shares.

Some of the shareholders are considering exercising their right, and offering to purchase these shares. It is further reported that the shareholders have recently received, through their lawyers, offers to purchase their shares in the group, but have refused them.

It is not clear what the consequences of the deal will be for the

structure of the board of directors. A court judgement handed down a few months ago in the dispute between Yediot's shareholders, determined that the board should be expanded in such a way that all the shareholders are represented.

A source close to Amnon Mozes said it had not yet been decided whether to appeal. He said that if the group opposing Amnon Mozes is interested in the good of the newspaper, it should be pleased with the deal.

"As far as Amnon Mozes is concerned, it is clear that the purchasers will want him to run the

newspaper," the source added. He reckoned that the purchasers will have no difficulty in obtaining representation on the board, as representatives of Zina (the company which held Ze'ev Mozes's shares).

The shareholders opposing Amnon Mozes are, it is reported, indeed content with the deal. They believe that the entry of an external party will lead to the group being run in a businesslike fashion.

In recent years, its activity has been accompanied by fierce power struggles.

Japan's Nikko Securities raided in payoff scandal

By DONALD MACINTYRE and MARTIN FACKLER

Japanese prosecutors yesterday raided Nikko Securities and the homes of its president and chairman as a scandal over payoffs to a gangster widened to engulf all of the nation's four largest brokerages.

Prosecutors raided Nikko's Tokyo headquarters and at least 10 other places for evidence the brokerage illegally funneled 14 million yen to Ryuichi Koike, 54, the admitted racketeer at the center of the scandal.

Japan's third-largest brokerage

issued a statement saying it's taking the raids "very seriously and with great regret."

Nikko's top executives are almost certain to resign en masse, as happened at Nomura Securities, Yamaichi Securities, and Daiwa Securities. A traditional act of penance in Japan, prompt resignations could also soften penalties that the Ministry of Finance is sure to impose.

That will leave Nikko and Japan's other top brokerages without their most experienced managers, as they prepare for the massive deregulation of Japan's financial markets, known as the "Big

Bang."

Nikko can still bounce back if it moves quickly to bring in new blood and put the scandal behind it, analysts said.

The question is: "Do they use the opportunity to bring in better, more alert managers?" said Paul Heaton, a financial industry analyst at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Capital Markets.

The brokerage will have to move swiftly to reassure investors spooked by the scale of the scandal. Kinki Nippon Railway, one of Japan's largest commuter line operators, yesterday dropped

Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi from underwriting its bonds, citing the scandal.

It's the first time all four top Japanese brokers have been left out of a bond sale since a 1991 scandal. Since news of the latest scandal broke in March.

Since then, the prosecutors have raided all of Japan's Big Four brokerages as well as its fourth-largest bank, Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, which lent Koike a quarter of a billion dollars without proper collateral.

So far, they've charged executives at Dai-ichi Kangyo and Nomura Securities, Japan's biggest brokerage.

More arrests and charges are expected, since Japan's prosecutors rarely carry out raids before they're sure they can build an airtight case.

It's the first time in six years all four brokerages have been entangled in the same scandal. In 1991, the four were caught reimbursing big customers for trading losses, which wasn't illegal then but was contrary to a Ministry of Finance order. The favoritism also angered small investors.

The law was changed in the wake of that scandal, yet prosecutors contend that all four brokerages continued the practice. They suspect Nikko paid the 14 million yen to an acquaintance of Koike's to compensate the racketeer for trading losses, said an official at the prosecutors' office.

While Nikko wouldn't say if its top executives will step down, resignations have quickly followed raids at other brokerages.

(Bloomberg)

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2 ROOMS GROUND-FLOOR apartment, new, separate entrance, garden, magnificent view in Har Adar. 15 minutes from Jerusalem. From September 29 - October 14 in exchange for care of lovable dog + nominal rent. Tel. 02-533-3522.

RENTALS

BAKA, DUPLEX, 5 + large balconies, 2nd floor, elevator, parking. Exclusive to IDAN. Tel. 02-673-4834.

CASPI, 4 WITH garden, view, appliances, cupboards, unfurnished, \$1,000. ANGLO-SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1161.

CASPI, LUXURIOUS VILLA with large garden, 7 rooms, view of Old City, unfurnished. \$3,500. ANGLO-SAXON. 2 Har-soreg St., Jerusalem. Tel. 02-662-1161.

CASPI, LUXURIOUS VILLA with large garden, 7 rooms, view of Old City, unfurnished. \$3,500. ANGLO-SAXON. 2 Har-soreg St., Jerusalem. Tel. 02-662-1161.

CENTER, 3, 1FT, balconies, view, sunny, furnished, \$1,000. ANGLO-SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1161.

GIVAT MASSUAH, TERRACED, 5, beautiful, view, \$850, no agents. Tel. 02-622-2184, 050-303-785.

BEIT ZEPHRA, NEW home, 5 rooms + parent's unit. Tel. 052-882-425.

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Your classified car ad can run in The Jerusalem Post for only:

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1. Save 10% on above prices, by using the mail-in coupon in this paper (2 weeks NIS 52.65; one month NIS 79.65; two months NIS 105.30).
2. You get up to 25 words, to say just how great your car is!
3. You may upgrade from package to package, by paying the difference.

TERMS OF PUBLICATION: Advertisement must be for one car only. You may cancel ad, if you sell the car, but no refunds. Payment by cash, check or credit card.

DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Givat Mordechai, 2.5, unfurnished, \$550,000, 3 garden, immediate, \$900,000. Tel: 02-532-1272 (NS).

REHAVIA, 5 BEAUTIFUL, spacious, 3rd floor, 3 balconies, roof terrace, elevator, ALEX LOSKY (C.R.E.B.). Tel: 02-623-5595.

REHAVIA (AZA), 3 + hall, furnished, 2nd floor, balconies, immediate. Tel: 02-534-4777, 052-602-737.

REHAVIA, 2 ROOMS, 3 balconies, 5600/month, immediate. Tel: 052-752-4331.

REHAVIA, STUDIO AND 2-3, Air conditioned. Also short term. REHAVIA REALTY. Tel: 02-561-9519.

SHARON HESSED, 3 nice, small, comfortable rooms. Koshar. Tel: 052-626-2847, 02-626-9768.

TALBIEH (GALFUR), 4, 3rd floor, porches, telephone, from 1.10.97. Tel: 02-563-2088.

TALBIEH, 4, FURNISHED, equipped, garden, short/long term. Tel: 02-561-7990.

VILLA, MOSHAV, 16 minutes from Jerusalem. Fully equipped, 3 bedrooms, 3 balconies, large garden, amazing view. Immediate. Tel: 02-534-2742, Tel: 05-287-8257.

MALHA, 4, + garden, from owner. For residential, commercial or office. \$900,000. Tel: 02-623-5454, 050-291098.

MALHA, PENTHOUSE, 6, nicely redecorated, furnished possible. Immediate. ALEX BASSADOR. Tel: 02-561-8101.

MOSHAV-AMINADAB, 5 ROOM luxury villa + garden. 2.5 + garden + swimming pool. Tel: 02-642-8183, 050-547-278, (02) 641-9219.

NAHLAOT, 3, SPLIT level, renovated, exclusive, GROSS REALTY. Tel: 02-625-0025.

COTTAGE IN JERUSALEM, 7 rooms, 350 sq.m. built, 270 sq.m. garden, 3-room basement for office or clinic, swimming pool, two parking spaces. Tel: 02-586 0862 Internet: http://www.molanazim.co.il E-mail: molanazim@eye-on.co.il

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RAMOT TRAGER (MORGENTHAU), 5, furnished, beautiful, kosher, view. Immediate. Long term. Tel: 02-532-1272 (NS).

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RAMOT, VILLA, 6 + garden, immediate, unfurnished. Tel: 02-552-3760, 02-538-4555, 052-800919.

ABU TOR, 4.5, PENT COTTAGE, 3 terraces, parking, promenade view, sunny, \$439,000. SHIRAN EXCLUSIVE through REVADIM REAL ESTATE. Tel: 02-673-1382.

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BARGAINI MOSHAV AVIEZER, corner house, 3, option to expand, excellent location. Only \$160,000. Exclusive to ANGLO - SAXON BET SHEMES. Tel: 02-981-0505.

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CASPI STREET, STUNNING Old City views, 180 sq.m. duplex + roof garden, urgent sale. Exclusive to CORINNE DAVAR. Tel: 02-673-5365.

EFRAIT - DEKEL, COTTAGE, 4.5 + option to build ground floor. Exclusive to MIRIAM REALTY. Tel: 02-993-1833.

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GERMAN COLONY, PENTHOUSE, 4.5 with large terrace, parking, ANGLO - SAXON. Tel: 02-625-1161.

GIVAT CANADA, PANORAMIC view, terrace, 4 + building rights, no steps, \$320,000. Exclusive to CORINNE DAVAR. Tel: 02-673-5365.

GIVAT SHARON, COTTAGE, half duplex property, breathtaking view, quality community, ANGLO - SAXON BET SHEMES. Tel: 02-981-0505.

GREEK COLONY, HISTORIC building, large rustic garden, 500 sq.m. + building rights, CORINNE DAVAR. Tel: 02-673-5365.

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DWELLINGS

Sharon Area

SALES/RENTALS

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antique style! Dining + pool. Excellent location. Facing sea. Tel. 050-231-725, 06-636-3261.

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★ EVEN YEHUDA Cottage with basement and separate entrance. Only \$400,000
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HERZLIYA PITUAH, GOLDEN beach townhouse, 2 bedrooms, immaculate condition, pool, immediate occupancy. ANGLO SAXON. Tel. 09-955-2256.

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DWELLINGS

Haifa and North

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HOLIDAY SALES

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Johansson outlines vision for FIFA's future

By MIKE COLLETT

HELSINKI (Reuters) — UEFA president Lennart Johansson yesterday said he would promote democracy within soccer if he is elected president of FIFA next year.

The 67-year-old Swede is widely regarded as a favorite to succeed retiring president Joao Havelange when the 82-year-old Brazilian steps down after 24 years in charge of the world governing body.

Johansson, head of the European Football Union, outlined his vision of "a democratic leadership" for world soccer's governing body at a conference here of presidents and general secretaries of UEFA's 51 member federations.

Also yesterday, Sepp Blatter, FIFA's current general secretary, said he would be delighted to remain at FIFA and work alongside Johansson if the Swede is voted FIFA's new president next June.

"Of course it would be up to the new president and Executive Committee to decide whether they wanted me to stay or not," said Blatter, one of the most powerful men in world soccer.

In his election manifesto entitled "Vision For the Future Governance of Football," Johansson states: "The world football movement is a community. For this reason, FIFA has to further strengthen its democratic governance as the United Nations of world football."

"In order to strengthen the democratic spirit and establish a fair system of balance between FIFA, the confederations and the associations, a revised structure must be openly discussed and then implemented."

The other pillars of his program would be greater decision-making and extra responsibilities for the confederations and that the money

generated from football was directly re-invested in the game.

While Johansson has the backing of Europe, the only other candidate so far proposed is Julio Grondona of Argentina although a number of others are expected to forward their candidatures by the deadline of April 7, 1998.

The vote will be taken by delegates at the FIFA Congress shortly before the start of the World Cup Finals in France next June.

Also yesterday UEFA's member federations gave their full backing to the idea of a standardized international fixture list — and also said they wanted the regulations for the release of players on international duty tightened up.

The presidents and general secretaries of 49 of UEFA's 51-member countries voted overwhelmingly in favor of proposing to FIFA that an international fixture list for representative teams be established.

That would mean that World Cup qualifiers or qualifiers for regional competitions like the European Championship would be played on the same days around the world.

The conference of National Association Presidents and General Secretaries also approved a fixed match schedule for the qualifying competition for the 2000 European Championship finals.

A schedule will be drawn up in advance and teams will know their entire qualification timetable the moment the qualifying draw is completed.

Although delegates agreed that new regulations for the release of international players were needed, they are to re-examine proposals and see whether players should be released by their clubs, for four or five days before competitive matches.

Sponsors give Anderlecht final warning

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The sponsors of Belgian soccer club Anderlecht yesterday warned they would cancel their contract if any more cases of match-fixing came to light.

UEFA, European soccer's governing body, has banned Anderlecht from European competition for a year after the club admitted paying a \$250,000 "loan" to Spanish referee Enriquez Munoz, who was in charge of the 1984 UEFA Cup semifinal between Anderlecht and Nottingham Forest.

"If similar facts emerge, I think

that as a bank we will indeed take a quick decision," Generale Bank's marketing director Paul Lembrichts told BRTN television.

Asked whether this meant the bank, Belgium's biggest, would then pull out, he said: "I think it will go in that direction." He said Generale Bank also wanted compensation if Anderlecht effectively failed to serve the ban.

"As a bank we want to position ourselves on the European level and a European campaign of a first division club is not unimportant in that context," he said.

Seve looks for any edge in Ryder Cup

SOTOGRADE, Spain (AP) — Seve Ballesteros fought too hard to gain respect for European golf to let the first Ryder Cup played on the continent slip away in his native Spain almost before it begins.

Pulling out all stops, Ballesteros rigged his roster, changed the order of play and then packed his team with veterans for the opening matches against a US team that seems to be the superior side.

It is as if Ballesteros shares the sense of some that the Americans could win in a runaway if they get out to a fast start in today's opening matches.

That is something he seems determined not to let happen.

Showing the same swashbuckling style that made him one of the most compelling players of his generation, Ballesteros popped awake before dawn yesterday to put together the lineup he hopes will get his team off to a fast start in today's better-ball play.

"I think Miguel Angel Jimenez was a little bit unhappy this morning," Ballesteros said about his assistant captain.

"Because at quarter past five I called him in his room and said, 'Come over to my room. We have to make the pairings.' He said, 'Are you crazy?' And I said, 'It's a good time because in the morning I'm more sharp.'"

Only a trace of a smile crossed the lips of Jimenez, who was sitting to the left of Ballesteros and nodded his head only slightly as if to say, "That's Seve."

That is Seve, indeed. His captaincy of the European team in the 32nd Ryder Cup matches at Valderrama Golf Club has been as free-wheeling as his style of play, which featured birdies from parking lots and 4-woods hit while on his knees.

"There is no question, being a captain is more pressure," Ballesteros said.

"When I'm playing in the majors, I don't remember waking up at four o'clock in the morning," Ballesteros came under fire three weeks ago when the European Ryder Cup committee replaced injured Miguel Angel Martin on the roster with Jose Maria Olazabal. The haste with which the move was made



DETERMINED VETERAN — Europe's Nick Faldo, who is set to become the most capped Ryder Cup player in history when the event gets under way today, strides up the fairway at the Valderrama course in final practice yesterday. (Reuters)

seemed to support the theory that Ballesteros wanted the experienced Olazabal on the team instead of the untested Martin. It also freed him to make Nick Faldo and Jesper Parnevik his two captain's picks.

That done, Ballesteros asked Kite if the traditional order of the matches that had alternate-shot play first could be switched so that better-ball was first. Kite agreed.

"I think I know why Seve wants to do that," Kite said. "He thinks he'll get a better feel for how the players are playing by watching them in the morning play their own ball."

Perhaps that is the edge Ballesteros is seeking. Perhaps he also knows that Europe won

28 of the 40 better-ball matches played from 1983 through 1991.

And when the pairings were announced yesterday for the opening better-ball matches, Ballesteros went with six of his seven players with Ryder Cup experience.

The first match will have Olazabal and Costantino Rocca facing PGA Championship winner Davis Love III and Phil Mickelson.

Faldo, who breaks the Ryder Cup record today with his 11th appearance, teams with rookie Lee Westwood against Fred Couples and Brad Faxon.

Then the two Swedes — Per-Ulrik Johansson and Parnevik — take on Tom Lehman and Jim

Furyk. Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara, neighbors in Orlando, Fla., who play together frequently, will anchor the US team in the final morning match against Colin Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer.

Scott Hoch, Jeff Maggert, Lee Janzen and, perhaps most surprisingly, British Open winner Justin Leonard, will sit out the morning matches for the US.

The only one of Europe's seven players with Ryder Cup experience to sit out better-ball play was seven-time veteran Ian Woosnam.

Also not playing in the morning matches for Europe were Danny Clark, Thomas Bjorn and Ignacio Garrido — all Ryder Cup rookies.

"These are in my opinion the most experienced pairings," said Ballesteros. "I have two rookies in Parnevik and Westwood, but overall the thought is based on experience here."

The six veterans playing for Europe have experience in a combined 28 Ryder Cups.

Kite also went with experience as only Woods and Furyk lacked previous Ryder Cup exposure. Couples, with four previous Ryder Cups, and O'Meara with three, are the most senior members of the US team.

"I had to leave four off," Kite said when asked about the absence of Leonard in the morning matches. "For best ball, this is a pretty outstanding lineup." Kite, who has steered clear of any gamesmanship with Ballesteros, did react with a note of irritation when reminded that Montgomerie said the tight fairways of Valderrama did not suit Woods' game.

"We're going to have the opportunity over the next couple of days to find out if Colin was right," Kite said.

Kite said he has known his opening pairings for a couple of days and indicated that he already knows his pairings for today's afternoon alternate-shot matches.

Ballesteros, meanwhile, remains undecided. "I don't have the foursomes in my mind yet," he said.

"Probably 4:30 tomorrow morning," Miguel Angel Jimenez better get to bed early. The phone will be ringing before dawn.

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Orioles clinch first division title in 14 years

McGwire ties Griffey with 55 homers

TORONTO (AP) — From start to finish, the Baltimore Orioles were the leaders of the pack.

The Orioles, who moved into first place on opening day and stayed there the rest of the season, clinched their first AL East championship since 1983 by beating Toronto 9-3 Wednesday night.

Baltimore is only the sixth major-league team to hold first place every day of the season.

"Wire to wire. It's kind of mind-boggling," Cal Ripken said. "What it says is we played good at the start, good in the middle and good in the end."

Rafael Palmeiro hit his 38th homer and drove in four runs for the Orioles, who lead the New York Yankees by four games with four remaining. If the teams finish with the same record, Baltimore would be the division champion because it won the season series against the Yankees 8-4.

No division playoff would be necessary because both teams already have postseason berths.

The Orioles, who open their best-of-5 playoff series at AL West champion Seattle on Wednesday, celebrated their title with a steady flow of champagne and beer.

"This celebration is going to be sweet, but it's also going to be short," Ripken said. "We've got to start thinking about Seattle, and anything can happen in a short series. Fortunately, the kind of season we had is something we can dwell on as we get ready for the playoffs."

The Yankees, who beat Cleveland Wednesday night, will be the AL's wild-card team. They will open their series against the Central champion Indians on Tuesday at Yankee Stadium.

Yankees 8, Indians 4
Dwight Gooden improved his career record against the Indians to 5-0. Gooden (9-5) allowed four runs and seven hits in seven innings.

A night after squandering a seven-run lead against the Indians, the visiting Yankees erupted for seven runs in four innings against left-hander Brian Anderson.

Derek Jeter, Jorge Posada and Tim Lincecum homered for the defending World Series champions, who evened their season series with Cleveland at 5-5.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Reds 5, Cardinals 4

Mark McGwire hit his 55th home run and tied Ken Griffey Jr. for the major league lead in home runs — never before in baseball history had two players hit at least 55 homers in the same season.

McGwire has four games left for the Cardinals. Griffey has three left for Seattle in their bids to reach Roger Maris' record of 61 in 1961.

"There's not much to talk about," McGwire said. "What else does the public want to know that hasn't been said?"

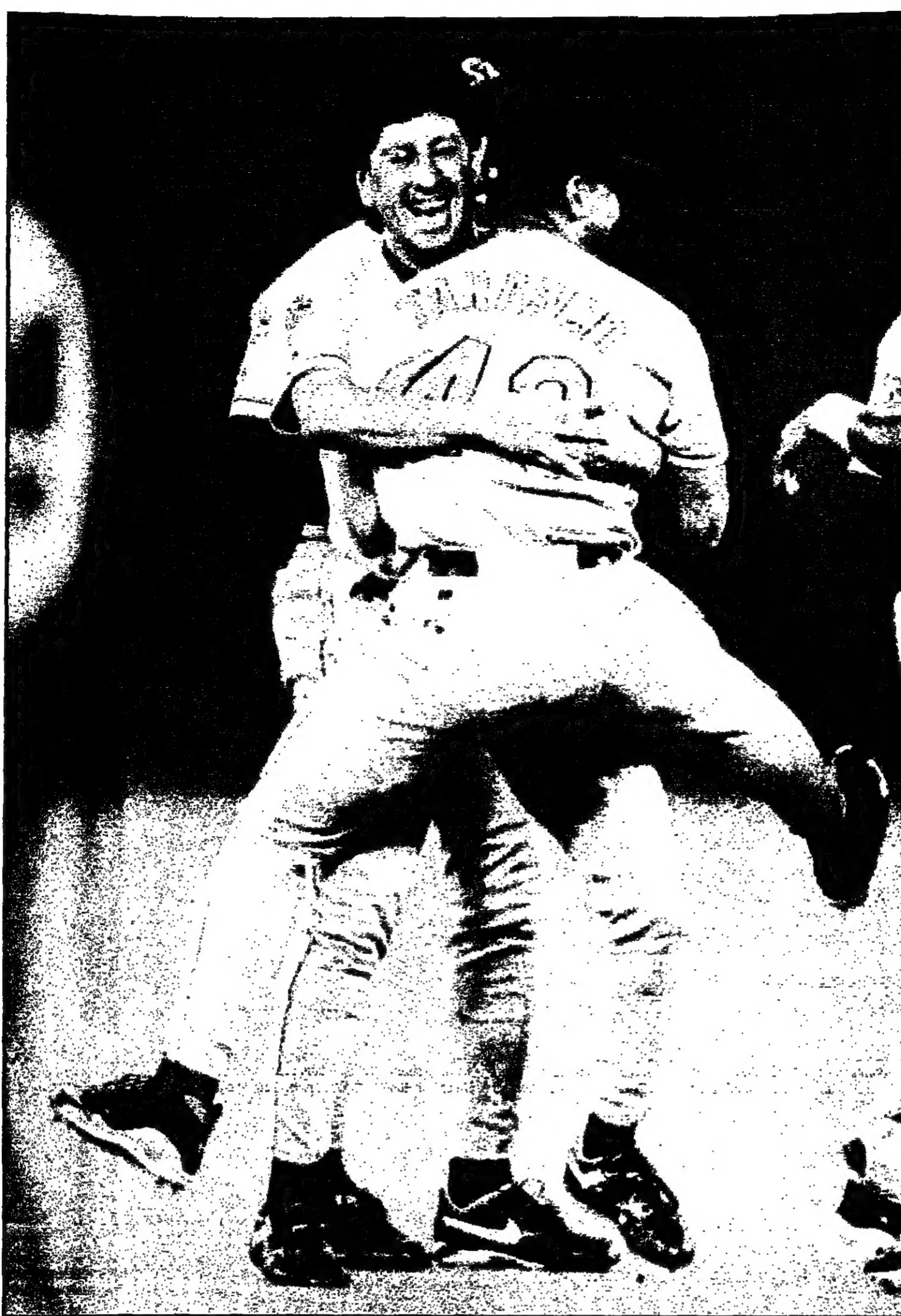
McGwire's homer was his 107th in the last two seasons, breaking the major league record for right-handed hitters set by Jimmie Fox.

McGwire connected for a two-run shot in the fifth inning at Busch Stadium. It was 19 plate appearances since his previous homer last Friday.

He has homered in 11 straight games, and has hit 12 home runs in September.

Padres 4, Dodgers 1
The Los Angeles Dodgers are making this too easy for the San Francisco Giants.

In a disappointing home finale, the Dodgers dropped 2½ games behind San Francisco in the NL



FLYING HIGH — Baltimore Orioles' outfielder Tony Tarasco is lifted off the ground by teammate Jesse Orosco after the team clinched the AL East.

West race.

The Dodgers have lost 11 of 15, while San Francisco, which won 4-3 at Colorado, is surging with six victories in eight games.

"If the Giants win it outright, then they deserve it," Dodgers catcher Mike Piazza said. "They've won some big games. I mean, it's easy to look at this past week and see that we haven't done the job."

The slumping Dodgers have four games left, all at Colorado.

"We hit the wall at the wrong time, and there ain't anything in the world anyone can do about it," Dodgers center fielder Otis Nixon said. "You can't pinpoint any one particular thing. It doesn't look good, it looks tough, but it's not

over."

Giants 4, Rockies 3
Brian Johnson again took over the hero's role for San Francisco with a game-winning home run, connecting for a solo shot with one out in the ninth inning at Coors Field.

Last Thursday at home, Johnson homered in the bottom of the 12th inning to beat Los Angeles. This time, he tagged Steve Reed (4-6) for the tiebreaking shot.

Roberto Hernandez (5-2) pitched two hitless innings for the victory. J.T. Snow hit his 28th homer and reached 100 RBIs for the Giants.

Colorado, which was 11 games behind on August 30 before closing the gap, was eliminated from playoff contention.

American League

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	96	62	.608	—
New York	92	66	.582	4
Detroit	79	79	.500	17
Boston	77	81	.487	19
Toronto	72	86	.456	24

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	84	72	.538	—
Chicago	77	80	.490	7½
Minnesota	77	80	.490	7½
St. Louis	66	91	.420	18½
Kansas City	65	92	.414	19½

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	89	70	.560	—
San Francisco	83	75	.525	5½
Los Angeles	74	84	.468	14½
Oakland	63	96	.396	26

x-clinched division title
w-clinched wild card

National League

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	99	59	.625	—
Florida	92	66	.582	7
New York	86	72	.541	13½
Montreal	76	82	.481	23
Philadelphia	65	93	.411	34

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	81	77	.513	—
Pittsburgh	78	81	.491	3½
Cincinnati	73	85	.462	8
St. Louis	71	87	.449	10
Chicago	67	91	.424	14

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	88	71	.553	—
Los Angeles	85	73	.539	2½
Colorado	82	76	.519	5½
San Diego	75	84	.472	13

x-clinched wild card
x-clinched division title

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New York 400 301 000—8 13 0
Cleveland 001 021 000—4 9 0
Gooden, Lloyd (8), Mendoza (9) and Posada; Br. Anderson, Colon (5), A. Lopez (7), Plunk (9) and S. Alomar, Diaz (8), W.—Gooden, 9-5. L.—Br. Anderson, 4-2. HRs—New York, Ramirez (4), Jeter (10), Posada (5), Cleveland, Manto (1).

Boston 001 033 200—9 15 0
Detroit 100 000 010—2 5 1
Wakefield, Brandenburg (8) and Hatterberg, Varitek (9), Blair, Duran (6), M. Myers (7), Jarvis (9) and Casanova, Jensen (8), W.—Wakefield, 12-15. L.—Blair, 16-8. HRs—Boston, M. Vaughn (34), Detroit, Fryman (21).

Baltimore 000 005 202—9 12 0
Toronto 000 200 100—3 7 1
Kamieniecki, Orosco (8), M. Myers (9) and Webster; Daal, Crabtree (6), Riskey (6), Almanzar (8), Escobar (9), Robinson (9) and B. Santiago, W.—Kamieniecki, 10-6. L.—Daal, 1-1. HRs—Baltimore, R. Palmeiro (38), Toronto, Cruz Jr. (26), Sammel (2).

Minnesota 301 020 010—7 11 2
Chicago 000 000 020—2 7 0
Fr. Rodriguez, Guardado (8), Ritzkie (8), Aguilera (9) and D. Miller, Baldwin, Fordham (6), L. Davis (9) and Fabregas, Machado (9), W.—Fr. Rodriguez, 3-6. L.—Baldwin, 12-15. SV—Aguilera (26), HR—Minnesota, M. Cordova (14).

Texas 111 000 041—8 13 0
Oakland 100 000 003—4 7 4
D. Oliver, Patterson (9) and L. Rodriguez, Haynes, A. Small (8), Groom (8), Taylor (8), T. Matthews (9) and Molina, W.—D. Oliver, 13-12. L.—Haynes, 3-6. HR—Oakland, Grieco (3).

Anaheim 100 223 100—9 13 0
Seattle 010 000 020—3 5 2
K. Hill, Da. May (8) and Encarnacion; Lira, McCarthy (5), Carmona (7), Holzemmer (8), Timlin (9) and R. Wilkins, Marzano (9), W.—K. Hill, 9-12. L.—Lira, 5-11. HRs—Anaheim, Turner (1), Howell (14), Seattle, Sheets (4).

NC 100 001 100 000 000—3 10 0
Milwaukee 100 002 000 000—4 12 1
Belcher, Service (7), Olson (9), Whisenant (11), Bevil (12), J. Montgomery (14) and MacFarlane, H. Sweeney (7), A. Stewart (11), Florio, Harwich (4), Davis (5), Wickman (7), Do. Jones (8), Peters (12), Wagner (15) and S. Smet, Matheny (8), W.—Wagner, 1-0. L.—J. Montgomery, 1-4. HRs—Kansas City, Palmer (23), Milwaukee, Vina (4), Ju. Franco (7).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—F. Thomas, Chicago, .351; J. Sweeney, Cleveland, .331; Ramirez, Cleveland, .330; E. Martinez, Seattle, .330; B. Williams, New York, .325; Greer, Texas, .323; O. Wells, New York, .322.
RUNS—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 122; Garcia, Boston, 119; Jeter, New York, 115; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 115; B. Hunter, Detroit, 111; Greer, Texas, 108; F. Thomas, Chicago, 108.

RBI—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 145; F. Thomas, New York, 141; J. Gonzalez, Texas, 128; Salomon, Anaheim, 124; F. Thomas, Chicago, 124; T. Clark, Detroit, 117; O. Wells, New York, 115.
HITS—Garcia, Boston, 207; Greer, Texas, 189; Jeter, New York, 184; G. Anderson, Anaheim, 183; Rodriguez, Texas, 183; Ramirez, Cleveland, 181; F. Thomas, Chicago, 181; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 181.

HOME RUNS—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 55; Ramirez, New York, 44; Thome, Cleveland, 40; J. Gonzalez, Texas, 40; B. Hunter, Seattle, 40; R. Palmeiro, Baltimore, 38; M. Vaughn, Boston, 34; F. Thomas, Chicago, 34; McGwire, Oakland, 34.
STOLEN BASES—B. Hunter, Detroit, 72; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 59; T. Gooden, Texas, 49; N. Nixon, Toronto, 47; V.quez, Cleveland, 43; Durbin, Chicago, 33; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 29.

PITCHING (18 Decisions)—R. Johnson, Seattle, 19-4, 8.26, 2.30; M. Lyle, Seattle, 17-4, 8.10, 3.68; Clemens, Toronto, 21-7, 7.50, 2.04; Pettitte, New York, 18-7, 7.20, 2.84; Hershiser, Cleveland, 14-6, 7.00, 4.52; Erickson, Baltimore, 16-7, 6.96, 3.71; Radtke, Minnesota, 20-9, 6.90, 3.71.
STRIKEOUTS—R. Johnson, Seattle, 288; Clemens, Toronto, 284; Coon, New York, 228; Mussina, Baltimore, 211; Appier, Kansas City, 191; F. Sasser, Seattle, 186; Radtke, Minnesota, 171.

SAVES—R. Ibanez, Baltimore, 44; M. Rivera, New York, 43; D. Jones, Milwaukee, 35; T. Jones, Detroit, 31; Wetteland, Texas, 30; Percival, Anaheim, 27; Slocum, Seattle, 27; R. Hernandez, Chicago, 27.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—G. Ryan, San Diego, .374; W. Walker, Colorado, .366; Piazza, Los Angeles, .357; Lofton, Atlanta, .334; J. Jones, San Diego, .330; M. Franco, Chicago, .323; G. Galarraga, Colorado, .319.
RUNS—Biggio, Houston, 144; W. Walker, Colorado, 142; Bonds, San Francisco, 120; Galarraga, Colorado, 120; Bagwell, Houston, 106; E. Young, Los Angeles, 102; O. Jones, Atlanta, 100; S. Finley, San Diego, 100.

RBI—Galarraga, Colorado, 138; Bagwell, Houston, 133; W. Walker, Colorado, 129; Sosa, Chicago, 119; G. Ryan, San Diego, 118; Kent, San Francisco, 117; Piazza, Los Angeles, 116.
HITS—G. Ryan, San Diego, 220; W. Walker, Colorado, 207; Piazza, Los Angeles, 192; Biggio, Houston, 190; Galarraga, Colorado, 188; H. Bonds, San Francisco, 185; Castillo, Colorado, 181.

HOME RUNS—W. Walker, Colorado, 48; Bagwell, Houston, 43; Galarraga, Colorado, 41; Castillo, Colorado, 40; Bonds, San Francisco, 39; Piazza, Los Angeles, 37; Sosa, Chicago, 36.
STOLEN BASES—W. Walker, Pittsburgh, 58; D. Sanders, Cincinnati, 54; D. Shields, St. Louis, 51; E. Young, Los Angeles, 45; Biggio, Houston, 45; Bonds, San Francisco, 35; O. Jones, Atlanta, 33; W. Walker, Colorado, 33.

PITCHING (18 Decisions)—N. Hatcher, Atlanta, 20-4, 8.33, 2.84; G. Lardner, Atlanta, 19-4, 8.26, 2.20; E. Sosa, San Francisco, 18-5, 7.83, 3.25; K. Lincecum, Houston, 19-7, 7.31, 2.57; R. Suter, San Francisco, 13-6, 6.84, 3.45; P. Martinez, Montreal, 17-4, 6.80, 1.92; G. Valenzuela, Atlanta, 14-7, 6.67, 3.01; K. Brown, Florida, 16-4, 6.67, 2.69.

STRIKEOUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 313; P. Martinez, Montreal, 296; S. Smoltz, Atlanta, 233; Nomo, Los Angeles, 227; K. Lincecum, Houston, 205; A. Hernandez, Florida, 178.
SAVES—Shaw, Cincinnati, 42; Hoffman, San Diego, 37; Beck, San Francisco, 37; J. Franco, New York, 34; E. Sosa, St. Louis, 34; N. Hatcher, Atlanta, 35; T. W. Lardner, Los Angeles, 35.

* SS (includes 21 with St. Louis)

Brive encounter turns into rough and tumble

FOLLOWING a week in which the Welsh voted to turn their red dragon into one which breathes real fire, by creating their own assembly in the devolution "Yes" vote, the principal still made headlines for some less savory reasons — and in the national sport no less — in rugby union.

After a particularly violent European Cup encounter between the French side Brive and Pontypridd, it appears matters may have spilled off the pitch as well. A brawl in a French bar later that night resulted in three Welsh players being questioned about assault and the French side demanding that dirty teams be kicked out of the tournament.

There's a certain irony in hearing battered French forwards, nursing their wounds, calling for violent opponents to be banned. Forget the Haka, New Zealand's pre-match Maori war dance which is supposed to intimidate the opposition — for years one of the most

frightening facets of international rugby happened immediately before kick-off at the Parc des Princes.

The latest incumbents of the famous blue jerseys would line up to belt out the national anthem. After passing along a handful of the "pretty boy" backs, the camera angle would rise perceptibly and the viewer would be greeted with the sight of eight gnarled, grizzled, unshaven brutes, otherwise known as the pack. True to form, when the game started these Gallic Goliaths were quite content to dish out what the veteran BBC commentator Bill McLaren once described, with memorable understatement, as "a wee bit of rough stuff."

So, while one would never condone the antics which happened in the Brive match, or after the game, it certainly brought a smile to my lips to hear veteran French forwards speaking of intimidation, violence and banning thugs from the game!

THERE'S a smell around

English football at the moment and despite some heavy application of air freshener by the Premier League it won't go away.

Sadly, it may need some stronger stuff from either the Football Association or, perish the thought, the courts, to clean up the atmosphere.

The long-awaited report of the inquiry into the so-called "bung" allegations has finally landed on assorted desks. Four years, 10,200 pages and 66 witnesses later and we seem to be left with a sort of "Well, some chaps were a little bit naughty, but not that bad and anyway they aren't doing it anymore" scenario. It says a lot for the report's clarity that two of the fiercest exponents of claim and counter claim at the time the allegations of misdeeds were first surfaced — the then England manager Terry Venables and the Labor MP Kate Hoey — have both declared themselves wholly vindicated by the report.

Admittedly the inquiry's

scope was limited but it has come up with some disturbing evidence that money did change hands over certain transfers which wasn't exactly "by the book."

In football, four years is a long time and even two of the report's authors have moved on to pastures new, so it's hardly surprising that some of the key characters in the saga are either no longer in the game or doing something completely different. But there does appear to be evidence that rules were broken and despite assurances from the Premier League's chief executive Peter Leaver that new rules will prevent any recurrence, surely it will need some action by the FA to investigate the evidence more thoroughly; and b. punish the guilty in order to create some sort of deterrent.

At the moment only George Graham, now rehabilitated as manager of Leeds, appears to have suffered as a result of the inquiry following his year-long ban from the game.

But if Graham makes a perfect Macbeth figure for this tale of dark deeds, there are still a few other ghosts which haunt the wider picture.

England's 'big 3' to cash in on pay TV

LONDON (Reuters) — Clubs in English soccer's premier league could earn over £500 million (\$810 million) from television rights to live matches in the 2003/2004 season, a study released this week has said.

Champions Manchester United, Newcastle United and Liverpool, the amateur fans' favorites, will be the big winners as pay-per-view coverage is introduced over the next few years, the report added.

Compiled by sports consultancy Oliver & Ohlbaum and business publisher Fletcher Research, the report said pay-per-view would generate some £280 million annually for premier league clubs by 2003/2004. Clubs would earn a further £240 million from the continuation of a subscription service offering a package of 60 live games a season. That compares with the £135 million the clubs receive from satellite broadcaster BSkyB for such live rights this year.

By 2003/2004, around 2.5 million households would be taking pay-per-view, under which they select specific matches to watch.

This could boost BSkyB's profits by £100 million annually, the report said.

Controlled by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation,

BSkyB has used premier league soccer to fuel its rapid growth in the 1990s. BSkyB now has six million subscribers and chief executive Sam Chisholm has called its relationship with the league "one of the great corporate romances of our time."

BSkyB is expected to develop pay-per-view coverage of soccer as part of its drive to get subscribers to sign up for the 200-channel digital service it plans to launch next year.

The report said 18 million people in England and Wales, a third of the population, consider themselves soccer fans. A staggering seven million claimed to support Manchester United, Liverpool or Newcastle.

However, 95 percent of these "supporters" never visit a ground in a typical season, following their teams instead through the newspapers and on television.

English soccer's big three are likely to cream off over 25 percent of all pay television revenues by 2003/2004. But while the rich get richer, the smaller clubs among the 20-team elite could see pay-per-view cut attendances by 15 percent, the report warned. It said some clubs might have to review ticket prices in the light of a televised alternative.

Italian porn star to sponsor local rugby club

ROME (Reuters) — Italian rugby club Lazio has signed a sponsorship deal with a porn star and will have her name emblazoned across their shirts next season.

"Launching the deal on Wednesday under the slogan 'great scrums with a porn star', the Rome-based club described the deal with actress Jessica Rizzo as lucrative.

"I can't tell you how much its worth but, believe me, for a Serie B squad it's big," club president Mario Ricciardi said.

Rizzo, one of Italy's best known porn actresses, owns a satellite television channel which broadcasts hard-core films. Lazio's shirts will promote the decoder cards needed to access the channel.

Maccabi survives a Real scare

Tel Aviv wins 2nd straight EuroLeague contest with 87-82 victory over Madrid

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Maccabi Tel Aviv staged off a ferocious Real Madrid comeback last night to post an 87-82 victory and start the European season with two victories for the first time in six years.

Maccabi held a 22-point advantage with only nine minutes remaining in the game before Madrid showed that no lead is safe in the EuroLeague by cutting the margin to just two points with under a minute left.

But if that scenario was reminding anxious Maccabi fans of the last time Real was at Yad Eliyahu, when the Spaniards roared back from a seven-point deficit with under five minutes to win, this time at least Maccabi kept its cool.

With only 25 seconds on the game clock, Oded Katash, who had sunk two free throws the last time down the floor, found Nadav Henefeld on a nice feed inside to boost the advantage back up to 85-81.

Then, after Real's Jose Antunez made only one of two from the charity stripe, Brad Leaf sealed the victory with two free throws to cap off a perfect 14-14 from the line for Maccabi on the night.

Perfect was the word many were using to describe Maccabi's first-half performance, when the blue-and-yellow machine had all its parts running in overdrive.

Rashard Griffith established an inside game early with four quick points and then Maccabi's guards took over with precision shooting. They sank seven consecutive three-point baskets, including three straight within two minutes for Derrick Sharp to give Maccabi an 18-6 advantage with 13:40 remaining in the half.

The half was going so well that even when Maccabi finally missed two three-point shots in a row, both were rebounded and tipped in for baskets.

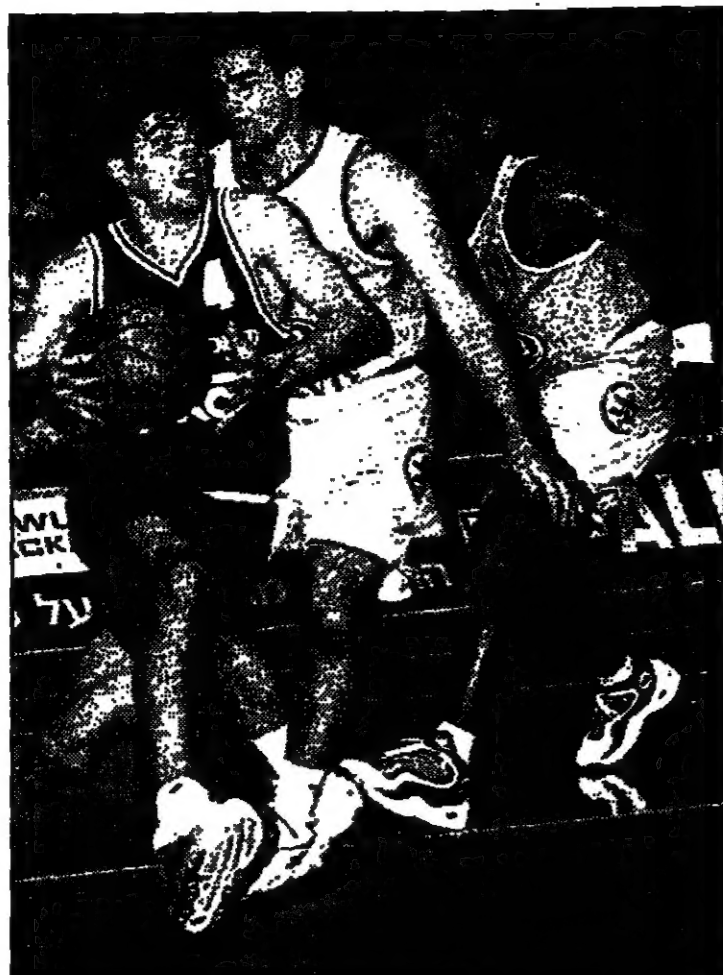
Defensively, Maccabi clamped down on Madrid's various offensive weapons and was able to control the boards against the Spanish big men.

Katash was simply outstanding in the half, scoring 20 points, including four three-pointers, as well as dishing off six assists to lead Tel Aviv to the locker room with a 52-35 lead at the break.

Maccabi appeared to be coasting along in the second half as well, building up the margin to 77-55 with less than nine minutes on the clock.

But Real, which fell to 0-2 this season, showed the character that makes it one of Europe's most distinguished clubs by storming back on the enemies' home court.

The Spaniards took advantage of careless defense by Tel Aviv's second team, which to the dismay of the Maccabi faithful stayed on the court for an exten-



NOT SO FAST - Real Madrid's Dejan Bodiroga dribbles past Maccabi Tel Aviv's Nadav Henefeld (center) and Randy White last night at Yad Eliyahu. (Reuters)

sive period as the first-half heroes Griffith, Katash and White spent prolonged minutes on the bench.

Maccabi's victory over Real Madrid was its first since 1994 and raised Tel Aviv's all-time record in the championships against Real to only 12-20.

For Maccabi, Katash scored 22, Sheffer 13, Sharp 11, Nadav Henefeld and Griffith 10, Leaf 9, White 8, and Borko Radovic and Constantin Pops 2 each.

For Real, Dejan Bodiroga scored 21, Alberto Herreros 18 (all in the second half, including 10-10 from the free-throw line), Paul Rogers 16 (all in the second half), Juan Oranga 14 and Joe Arlauskas 6.

In other Group A action, Olympiakos remained undefeated with a 86-74 home victory over CSKA Moscow, while Efes Pilsen won on the road against Limoges 77-62.

Next week Maccabi travels to Moscow to play CSKA. The game will be played ahead of time on Tuesday because of Rosh Hashana. The other matches in the group will take place on Thursday, with Olympiakos taking on Limoges and Real battling Efes Pilsen.

Group A	W	L	Pts
Maccabi	2	0	4
Olympiakos	2	0	4
CSKA Moscow	1	1	3
Efes Pilsen	1	1	3
Real Madrid	0	2	2
Limoges	0	2	2

Rafter cruises into semifinals, faces Korda

MUNICH (Reuters) — US Open champion Patrick Rafter made sure of \$675,000 in prize money with an impressive straight sets Grand Slam Cup win over Chilean Marcelo Rios to set up a semifinal with Czech Petr Korda.

Australian Rafter, who relied on his trademark serve-and-volley game to tame Rios 6-1, 7-6 on Thursday, earned \$425,000 for advancing to the last four, plus a \$250,000 bonus for having won a grand slam.

Korda, who won the richest tournament in the game in 1993, will have to be content with \$425,000 for his 7-5, 6-3 win over Wimbledon finalist Cedric Pioline of France.

World No. 1 Pete Sampras plays Swede Jonas Bjorkman while Briton Greg Rusedtski, who fell to Rafter in the US Open final, faces Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the remaining quarter-finals today.

Jerusalem sweats out first EuroLeague win

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Las Vegas native H. Waldman bet on three last night, and that number came up big as the Hapoel Jerusalem guard hit a trio of three-pointers to give his club its first ever EuroLeague victory, 80-74 over Ulker Istanbul.

Waldman, who had been groomed to replace point guard Papi Turgutian, looked a lot more comfortable in the shooting guard roll instead, especially when with his club down 66-65, he fired up a three-pointer to regain the lead for Jerusalem.

Moments later, with Jerusalem clinging to a 75-72 advantage, he took a pass from Adi Gordon and sank another huge three-pointer to seal Jerusalem's triumph, evening its EuroLeague record at 1-1.

The victory didn't come easily, and Hapoel coach Gadi Kedar probably sweated more than if he had spent the entire evening in a Turkish bath.

At first it looked like Hapoel

would blow Ulker out of Malha, as they used superb passing and a switching defense that had the Turks on the ropes 20-10 after Kenny Williams scored following a steal by Radisav Curcic.

Then the roof caved in. Turkish national team star Harun Erdenay scored twice following steals, then center Kenny Green hit a three-pointer and Ulker ran off a 14-2 spurt to tie it at 27.

Point guard Michael Anderson made Jerusalem's life miserable, swiping at everything in sight and slicing easily through Hapoel's defense on his way to 12 first-half points to keep things close.

But with Curcic pounding away steadily inside, Hapoel stayed calm until Adi Gordon got a charity bounce off the backboard on a last moment shot to give Hapoel a 42-41 halftime lead.

Gordon (18 points) took up where he left off, burying a three to open the second half. Hapoel opened up a five-point lead, but Ulker forward Kenny Rankin, not usually much of an offensive force, found himself

open time after time underneath and the Turks evened things up again at 63.

Gordon then made a huge mistake by fouling Anderson on a three-point attempt. The mercurial Ulker point guard knocked in all three free throws (11-12 on the night) and suddenly Ulker led 66-65 with 4:40 left.

That's when Waldman got free for his first bomb, which hurt Ulker almost as much as Waldman's tough defense on Erdenay in the second half.

Motti Daniel, who again ran into early foul trouble and again missed most of the game, contributed a huge play by taking a charge from Anderson seconds later, the Ulker guard's fourth foul.

Anderson was thus forced to give Gordon some room as the Jerusalem captain came downcourt with just over a minute left and Jerusalem up 75-72. It was enough space for Gordon to set up Waldman perfectly beyond the arc for the shot of the game which propelled Hapoel into the win column in EuroLeague play alongside Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Curcic had an outstanding game for Jerusalem, with 24 points and 10 rebounds, and was a superb 8-9 from the foul line. Kenny Williams stoned for some poor ballhandling by scoring 11 and grabbing some important rebounds. Anderson had 19 for Ulker, while Green and Erdenay both added 18.

The victory tells Hapoel's EuroLeague opponents the club is for real, and should be a major confidence booster for Hapoel as they travel to Yugoslavia next week for a match-up with Partizan Belgrade. If Waldman stays hot, Gordon continues improving and Curcic stays consistent, Hapoel fans may soon be betting on big things for their club in the EuroLeague this season.

Group C	W	L	Pts
Barcelona	2	0	4
Real Madrid	1	1	3
Hapoel Jerusalem	1	1	3
Panathinaikos	1	1	3
Partizan Belgrade	0	2	2
Ulker	0	2	2

CSKA Moscow said to be facing extinction

MOSCOW (Reuters) — CSKA Moscow's EuroLeague game last night against European champions Olympiakos in Athens could be one of the Russian champions' last if the Kremlin fails to heed an appeal for a last-minute financial rescue.

"If the situation does not change in the next few days, it cannot be ruled out that after the EuroLeague game against Maccabi in Moscow on September 30 the CSKA basketball team will cease to exist," Sport-Express newspaper said.

Russia's sportswriters' federation has sent an appeal to the government, the mayor of Moscow

and wealthy businessmen warning that the Russian army side, who have won all six post-Soviet league titles, will go under without immediate help.

Players and coaching staff complained after clinching the 1997 crown in May that they had not been paid since December.

"Save the absolute Russian champion, which is on the point of financial collapse," the sportswriters said.

"It will be a shame and a disgrace if Russia loses the jewel in its crown and, with it, its place in the EuroLeague, its reputation and its significance."

Keegan eager to prove a point at Fulham

LONDON (Reuters) — Kevin Keegan, who quit suddenly as Newcastle manager in January, returned to English soccer yesterday with second division Fulham and a determination to prove a point.

"My intention, our intention, is to be as successful here as we were at Newcastle," Keegan told a news conference at the London club, who coincidentally also play in black and white.

"Our dream and our wish is to make Fulham one of the big clubs. Our aim is the Premiership."

"I've seen already some articles in the papers where people laugh and joke and I fully understand them. But we have the chance to make people eat their words."

Fulham, purchased by the millionaire businessman Mohamed

Al Fayed after winning promotion from the third division at the end of last season, said the former England forward would be chief operating officer.

The club said this meant that Keegan would be in charge of all football matters.

Keegan's former England colleague Ray Wilkins was appointed team manager and former Newcastle manager Arthur Cox took on the role of chief scout.

"Mohamed said to me 'assemble your own team. You start with a blank piece of paper,'" Keegan said.

"Mr Fayed said to me 'run the club like it's yours. So I won't be throwing money away,' he added when asked if his appointment meant big name signings.

Al Fayed, whose son Dodi died in a car crash with Princess Diana last month, owns the nearby luxury department store Harrods. He has promised substantial investment in the club.

London bookmakers slashed Fulham's odds on winning the second division championship to 10-1, second favorites from 14-1. Watford are 11-10 favorites.

William Hill gave odds of 12-1 that Fulham would be in the Premiership by the year 2000. "Keegan did it at Newcastle, now people believe he can do it at Fulham," said a Ladbrokes spokesman.

Fulham said Keegan had agreed a "long term deal" under which he would also take an equity interest in Fulham Leisure Ltd, the club's parent company. Keegan said this amounted to around five percent.

SPORTS

in brief

Ravanelli signs for Marseille

LONDON (Reuters) — Unsettled Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli ended speculation about his future by signing a four-year contract with French first division club Olympique Marseille yesterday.

His previous club, Middlesbrough, confirmed that the deal, worth £5.35 million (\$8.6 million), had gone through.

The news ended months of speculation which began when Middlesbrough, beaten finalists in both the League Cup and the FA Cup, were relegated from the English premier league at the end of last season.

Ravanelli, who scored 31 goals for them during the 1996/97 season after his high-profile transfer from Juventus, made it clear that he did not wish to play for the club in a lower league and manager Bryan Robson did not attempt to hide his relief that the Italian had finally gone.

Mallett takes over Springbok hotseat

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — Nick Mallett became South Africa's seventh rugby coach in six seasons when he was appointed in Johannesburg yesterday.

The 40-year-old former number eight succeeds Carel du Plessis who lasted just six months in the job before being fired after a disastrous run of five defeats in eight matches this season.

Du Plessis piped Mallett for the job in February but this time the Boland provincial coach was the only serious contender for South African sport's most precarious job. His appointment is until after the World Cup in 1999.

Celtic set to take Scottish FA to court

GLASGOW (Reuters) — Glasgow Celtic may take the Scottish FA to court after a payment blunder wrecked their bid to win a £2 million compensation fee for former player John Collins.

The Parkhead club were furious after hearing on Wednesday that their 10-month appeal for compensation from French club Monaco had been rejected by FIFA because the SFA failed to pay their appeal costs on time.

The wrangle began when Monaco signed Collins for nothing under the Bosman ruling when his contract with Celtic ended in June 1996.

The Scottish club have argued that compensation was due because the principle of Monaco was not a member of the European Union and therefore not covered by the Bosman ruling which allows free movement of out-of-contract players between EU countries.

United to Ipswich in League Cup 3rd round

LONDON (Reuters) — Manchester United visit Ipswich in the third round of the English League Cup next month while last year's beaten finalists Middlesbrough are at home to local rivals Sunderland.

Full third round draw: Barnsley or Chesterfield v Brentford or Southampton, West Ham or Huddersfield v Aston Villa, Reading v Wolverhampton, Oxford v Tranmere, West Bromwich v Liverpool, Middlesbrough v Sunderland, Ipswich v Preston or Blackburn, Sheffield Wednesday or Grimsby v Leicester, Bolton or Leyton Orient v Millwall or Wimbledon, Chelsea v Preston or Blackburn, Stoke v Bristol City or Leeds, Arsenal v Birmingham, Newcastle v Crystal Palace or Hull, Carlisle or Tottenham v Derby or Southend, Coventry or Blackpool v Everton or Southcoke, Walsall v Sheffield United. Matches to be played week commencing October 13.

Tomorrow's top 25 college football games

No. 1 Florida at Kentucky, No. 5 North Carolina vs. Virginia, No. 6 Michigan vs. Notre Dame, No. 7 Ohio State at Missouri, No. 8 Auburn vs. Central Florida, No. 11 Iowa vs. Illinois, No. 13 LSU vs. Akron, No. 14 Vir. Tech vs. Arkansas St., No. 15 Wash. St. vs. Boise St., No. 16 Colorado vs. Wyoming, No. 17 Clemson at Georgia Tech, No. 18 Kan. St. vs. Bowling Green, No. 20 Stanford vs. Oregon, No. 21 Alab. vs. S. Mississippi, No. 22 Texas A&M vs. North Texas, No. 23 Br. Young at S. Methodist, No. 24 UCLA vs. Arizona, No. 25 Arizona St. at Oregon St.

Hapoel Petah Tikva, Betar Jerusalem in hot clash

By OFI LEWIS

A fascinating clash of two of the hottest teams in local soccer takes place in Petah Tikva tomorrow, when home side, Hapoel, take on Betar Jerusalem.

It is the featured match of the weekend, and with good reason. Both sides are representing Israel in the UEFA Cup and tomorrow will be their last chance to prove to themselves — and everybody else — that they are up to the task of beating their continental opponents.

Petah Tikva host Rapid Vienna and have to overcome a 1-0 deficit. Betar travel to Belgium where they will try to defend their 2-1 advantage in order to advance to the next round.

Petah Tikva have won their last four league matches, and their three young stars — Motti Kakkon, Eli Abarbanel and Yaniv Ofri — are in prime form. Betar crushed troubled Hapoel Beersheba 7-2 in a league match in midweek and all their stars are looking in great shape. The three Hungarians — Stefan Saloi, and the Istvans, Hamar and Pishout — and Yossi Abukasis and Eli Ohana. It should be a cracking affair, although perhaps both sides will try to hold back a little on the tackling because they

cannot afford any injuries before their forays into Europe.

Beersheba host another side in good form, Hapoel Haifa and the home side's confidence is really on the line. With deep divisions in the club concerning the coach, Benny Tabak, Beersheba really do not look like a side ready to meet adversity head-on. Elsewhere, leaders Hapoel Tel Aviv host Maccabi Petah Tikva, Hapoel Jerusalem are at home to Beit She'an and lowly Maccabi Hapoel play in Ashkelon against fellow-strugglers Hapoel in today's only match.

Other matches: Ironi Rishon v. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Maccabi Haifa v. Bnei Yehuda, Maccabi Herzliya v. Ironi Ashdod.

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hapoel Tel Aviv	4	4	2	4	15	14	14
Hapoel Petah Tikva	4	4	2	2	9	3	12
Hapoel Jerusalem	6	3	3	9	4	3	12
Hapoel Haifa	6	3	2	13	7	6	11
Hapoel Beersheba	6	3	2	1	6	2	11
Betar Jerusalem	5	2	3	11	7	4	9
Ironi Rishon	6	2	2	12	9	4	8
Bnei Yehuda	4	1	3	6	8	2	6
Hapoel Petah Tikva	6	1	3	2	5	7	6
Hapoel Beersheba	6	2	4	10	4	6	6
Hapoel Haifa	6	1	2	13	10	2	5
Hapoel Jerusalem	5	1	2	5	7	2	5
Hapoel Ashdod	6	1	3	11	11	3	5
Maccabi Tel Aviv	6	1	3	11	11	3	5
Hapoel Kfar Sava	6	1	5	6	12	4	3

Ra'anana bowlers take mixed-fours

By NORMAN SPIRO

Ra'anana won the annual national mixed-fours lawn bowls competition played off at the Kiryat Ono club on Monday.

Colin Silberstein (Israel's new Cup for the Jersey six-nation tournament) skipped well for the Ra'anana team of Len Averbuch, Helen Gordon, and Hadassa Fisher for a well-deserved 23-13 win over the Ramat Hasharon side of Barry Scop, Yehuda Bar-On, Esme Rabin, and Yaffa Levin.

Fisher and Gordon laid the foundation of Ra'anana's win with accurate drawing shots to the jack, thereafter consolidated with tight

bowling by Averbuch and Silberstein.

Barry Scop, too often under pressure, made many valiant attempts to stay within reach, and with Ra'anana 16-4 ahead at the 13th end, he removed Ra'anana's wood for a six-count to close the gap to 16-10. But Ra'anana kept up the pressure conceding little for their well-earned victory.

Israel's bowlers are preparing for the Annual National Championship of singles, pairs, and fours during the week-long Snoot holiday. The triples competition commenced last week and will be concluded on the coming weekend.

At last, new-look Arsenal start to entertain

By ROBERT MILLWARD

LONDON (AP) — Don't call them "boring, boring Arsenal" any more.

After 30 years of being dubbed the dullest soccer team in England, the Gunners have suddenly blossomed into a free-scoring troupe of entertainers who now sit proudly atop the Premier League.

Dennis Bergkamp with eight and Ian Wright with seven have scored 15 of Arsenal's 20 goals from eight unbeaten games and most have been achieved with style.

Close season signing Marc Overmars also netted twice in Wednesday's 4-0 crushing of West Ham as the Gunners replaced defending champion Manchester United atop the standings on goal difference.

All four goals were scored before half time in what French coach Arsene Wenger described as the best 45 minutes soccer he had seen from his team.

"After just eight games we must not draw too much from our position but it looks as though we are enjoying our game," said former Monaco coach Wenger who took over midway through last season. "When you win through it gives you confidence — and keep winning that you cannot perform." "We can without that you cannot perform." "We can have more accuracy with our passing in the last 25 yards of the field and be stronger on set pieces. We still have a lot of work to do but I was pleased that we had greater fluency than we have had before this season."

And several more before that.

Over the years Arsenal has gained a reputation of grinding out victories — often 1-0 — with sheer hard work and tactics rather than flair and imagination. They used to be jeered off the field with rivals fans chanting "boring, boring Arsenal."

Occasionally it worked and the Gunners brought the league title south in 1989 and '91 during a 26-year domination by clubs in the north and central England.

Wenger's new-look Arsenal still has the defense he inherited from previous managers George Graham and Bruce Rioch. England's No. 1 goalkeeper, David Seaman, is still around and so are countrymen Tony Adams, Steve Bould, Lee Dixon, Nigel Winterburn and Martin Keown, all of them England internationals.

In front of them, however, it has all changed. Frenchman Patrick Vieira is the mid-field anchorman with flair players such as countryman Emmanuel Petit and Overmars creating chances and Bergkamp and Wright banging in the goals.

Tomorrow Wenger takes his confident squad to Goodison Park to face an Everton team near the other end of the standings after four losses in seven games.

Everton manager Howard Kendall likely will recall towering striker Duncan Ferguson to try and unsettle the Arsenal defense but he has few other attacking options and the

Gunners will be favored to win for the sixth time this season.

Manchester United need to rebound from losing top spot by winning at Leeds. But manager Alex Ferguson now has all his main forwards — Teddy Sheringham, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Andy Cole, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Karel Poborsky — fit again and anything less than a win at Elland Road would be a disappointment.

Third place Blackburn host mid-table Coventry on Sunday while Martin O'Neill's Leicester, who are fourth in the standings, and hope for glory against Atletico Madrid in Tuesday's UEFA Cup game, should gain three points at sliding Barnsley, who are second from last after six losses in eight games.

Probably the most eye-catching game of the day is Chelsea against Newcastle at Stamford Bridge.

Although fifth place Chelsea have lost twice, they have an abundance of forward talent and gained a 2-2 draw at Manchester United on Wednesday to help Arsenal's advance to the top.

Newcastle are still without long-term injury absentee Alan Shearer but Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla has sometimes looked unstoppable. Kenny Dalglish's team have won four of their last five games, the latest against Everton on Wednesday, but they have only scored six goals.

Improving Liverpool go to a West Ham team which has lost four in a row. While Roy Evans' Liverpool come off a 3-0 beat-

ing of Aston Villa, the Hammers were crushed 4-0 by Arsenal and will be short of confidence.

Two promoted clubs, Crystal Palace and Bolton, meet at Selhurst Park. Palace has won three and lost four out of eight while Bolton has tied four out of seven with only one win and two losses.

Jim Smith's Derby should follow up its 5-2 win at next-to-last Sheffield Wednesday by beating last-place Southampton at home while Villa should bounce back from its humbling at Liverpool by scoring a victory over Wednesday at Villa Park.

After slow starts to the season, Tottenham and Wimbledon both need a couple of victories to jump into the top half of the standings. They meet at Spurs' White Hart Lane.

In Division One, Nottingham Forest and Queens Park Rangers, both of them Premier League teams in recent seasons, are locked together on 16 points. Forest host Stoke while QPR go to Port Vale.

Glasgow Rangers, having climbed to the top of the Scottish Premier Division standings as they chase a record 10th championship in a row, should gain three points at home to modest Motherwell, who are six points behind and in mid-table.

Hearts, one point behind, go to Kilmarnock while third place Hibernian host St Johnstone and Celtic, co-holders of the record nine titles in a row, have four points to make up and go to winless Dundee United.

مقاطعة القدس

Greece: Arab pressure has delayed exercise with Israel

By STEVE RODAN

ATHENS - Greece has failed to implement a military cooperation agreement with Israel, including the conduct of naval exercises, because of Arab pressure on Athens, Greek officials say.

The search and rescue exercises were scheduled for last June. But Greece asked for them to be delayed and has not set a new date, the officials said.

"It is true that the exercises were delayed because of Arab opposition," Alternate Foreign Minister George Papandreu told *The Jerusalem Post*.

"The tensions in Israel and the Arab opposition to Turkey's exercises made it more difficult to have exercises now. But we hope to have the exercises."

Yannos Kranidiotis, undersecretary of foreign affairs, went even further, saying the 1995 Greek-Israeli military cooperation memorandum has "not been activated. We are very skeptical about activating it. It doesn't mean that we will not carry out the exercise. We have to wait a little longer."

Kranidiotis noted repeatedly that the Turkish military relationship with Israel was close, but

he said Greece would hesitate to follow suit.

"We are very careful because we don't want to play the game of being one-sided in the area," he said. "If Israel is participating in the bids of the open markets then we welcome this."

Israeli diplomatic sources said the government of Prime Minister Costas Simitis is interested in increasing Greek defense ties with Israel. But they said the government is being hampered by what one source called "entrenched elements in Greece's military and diplomatic bureaucracy."

Still, Greek officials said their country seeks greater Israeli involvement in Athens's military procurement program. But they said the Israelis have shied away from this in concern that this would anger the Turks.

"The modernization of Greek armed forces by Israel is a problem for Israel," Papandreu said. "My understanding is that there is a misunderstanding on the Israeli side. Perhaps this is a misunderstanding."

For his part, Kranidiotis said Greek cooperation in other military areas is increasing. This includes exchange of intelligence information and other cooperation regarding threats of terrorism. He said Greece is interested in Israeli participation in bids for weapons contracts but said

that Israeli prices have been generally high.

Greece officials said Elbit Systems Ltd. has been awarded a subcontract for the upgrade of Greek F-4 fighter-jets for the Hellenic Air Force. The main contractor is the Munich-based Daimler-Benz Aerospace AG, which it said provided a lower bid than Elbit for the upgrade contract.

An Elbit spokesman refused to comment. The interest in greater Israeli involvement in Greece's military procurement program comes amid Greece's dispute with Turkey over borders and over sovereignty in the Aegean Sea.

On Monday, the Hellenic Air Force took delivery of eight new F-16 fighter planes, the first installment of a total of 40 Block 50 planes to be delivered by the US manufacturer Lockheed Martin by the end of 1998.

Greek National Defense Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos and other officials said the purchase of F-16s was to counter the Turkish threat, rather than to meet NATO obligations.

Some of the officials complained that tensions with Ankara have prompted a significant increase in defense spending, which has reached four percent of the GDP, as opposed to most of the other NATO members, which spend between 1% and 2%.

Hospital strike continues

Basic services at minimal level

By JUDY SIEGEL

Relatives of patients in some government hospitals were forced to bring them meals yesterday, while other hospitals purchased catered meals. The shutdown of state hospital kitchens was the result of a strike by administrative, maintenance, and technical workers, and its end is not in sight.

The level of services, including cleaning, laundry, food, and reception, were minimal at the 31 affected general, geriatric, and psychiatric institutions. The strike was called to protest the shortage of 1,500 job slots that the Treasury refuses to finance.

As a result of the emergency schedule in the hospitals, only the following departments and units are functioning close to normal: intensive care, cardiology, emergency rooms, dialysis, neonatal, oncology, and

obstetrics. Meanwhile, the Israel Medical Association announced that sanctions over the Treasury's refusal to carry out a signed agreement to increase doctors' job slots will continue next week. On Sunday, operating rooms in the north will admit only emergency cases. The affected hospitals are Shefi in Safed, Poriya in Tiberias, Nahariya government hospital, Ha'emek in Afula, Hilel Yaffe in Hadera, and Carmel, Rambam, and Bnai Zion in Haifa.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar said there are no contacts between the doctors and the government to renew negotiations. So far, 5,300 non-emergency operations and out-patient clinics have been cancelled due to the sanctions, which began two weeks ago.

WEATHER

Yotfa 19-28
Tiberias 20-33
Afula 19-30
Samarita 18-26
Tel Aviv 21-28
Jerusalem 16-26
Beer Sheva 18-28
Dead Sea 27-33
Eilat 23-35

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear
Shabbat: Light rain on Monday

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND
Amsterdam	10-14	14-18	light
Berlin	10-14	14-18	light
Buenos Aires	10-14	14-18	light
Cardiff	10-14	14-18	light
Chicago	10-14	14-18	light
Copenhagen	10-14	14-18	light
Frankfurt	10-14	14-18	light
Geneva	10-14	14-18	light
Helsinki	10-14	14-18	light
Hong Kong	10-14	14-18	light
London	10-14	14-18	light
Los Angeles	10-14	14-18	light
Madrid	10-14	14-18	light
Moscow	10-14	14-18	light
New York	10-14	14-18	light
Paris	10-14	14-18	light
Rome	10-14	14-18	light
Stockholm	10-14	14-18	light
Tokyo	10-14	14-18	light
Toronto	10-14	14-18	light
Zurich	10-14	14-18	light

PM's Office backtracks over closing ministry

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Prime Minister's Office backtracked yesterday after issuing a statement that Premier Benjamin Netanyahu "in principle opposes the closing of the Science Ministry during the next fiscal year."

After learning that Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak had made this statement, Science Minister Michael Eitan - who is demanding the ministry be closed and replaced with a powerful National Council for Research and Development - called the spokesman.

Bazak later reminded the press of a cabinet decision earlier this month that it would decide on the fate of the ministry in 45 days, after discussions of the issue were held. He said the press "didn't need to report" the prime minister's statement about his own position in principle against closing the ministry, but Bazak did not deny having issued it.

The Science Ministry's works committee, responding to the prime minister's statement that he did not intend to close the ministry, sent Netanyahu a faxed message thanking him.

They noted they supported the establishment of a powerful national council, but said the task of such a statutory council would be to plan and advise, while the ministry's job is to implement the advancement of basic research in fields that receive no help from any other source.

"If you want to establish an effective national council that can make its mark, it's worthwhile to learn from past experience and avoid repeating mistakes," they said. Prof. Shmuel Eitan, the influential dean of the engineering faculty of Tel Aviv University, yesterday lent his support for keeping the ministry open.

"It's difficult to measure in financial terms the good that the ministry has done with promoting international scientific ties; it has also promoted many scientific projects despite its limited financial means," he said.

Bassiouny accuses Israel of harassment

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny was quoted yesterday as saying that he had been subjected to official harassment and is ready to leave the country if it persists.

Bassiouny, the longest-serving ambassador to Israel, said he had protested about a detailed search of his official car and complained that a demonstration had been allowed to take place outside his residence.

"My suitcases are ready and I am prepared to leave at any moment," Bassiouny told *Yedioth Aharonot*. "If the harassment continues, I have no choice but to leave."

He said he has protested to the government against the "series of harassments and provocations."

Bassiouny complained that his diplomatic car had been searched at the border with Egypt last Saturday.

"The search lasted three hours. What do they think, that I planned to smuggle weapons? Hashish? Don't they know a car carrying diplomatic plates has immunity?" Bassiouny said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Bassiouny yesterday and promised to investigate his complaints. The Foreign Ministry expressed regret over the search of his car and said it was a misunderstanding.

President Ezer Weizman heard the complaints from Bassiouny earlier this week and said he hoped he would not return to Egypt because of them.

Bassiouny told *Yedioth* that the timing of "provocations by Israeli bodies" was no coincidence, implying it was related to Egypt's recent conviction of Azzam Azzam for espionage.

"I have been here for 17 years, and never, until the past two



Demonstrators stand outside the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday, demanding that Egypt release Azzam Azzam, the Israeli Druse convicted of spying for Israel. (Azzam Shilo' Israel Sun)

weeks, have I met with such treatment," he said. "I am not a private citizen and I do not treat provocation against me as personal."

He said he is also angry that the authorities had allowed a demonstration in support of Azzam to take place in front of

his house in Herzliya. Another such demonstration took place yesterday evening in front of the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Speaking in Tel Aviv yesterday, Bassiouny said he does not understand why Israelis are so angry about the Azzam verdict. "I want to reveal to you that

there are 37 Egyptian citizens in Israeli jails. Have we ever raised our voices in protest? Have we requested any intervention by the president or the prime minister with regard to the verdicts?"

"We have not done this and the reason is simple. We are in a state of peace with Israel and we

do not see ourselves as permitted to interfere with the decisions of its justice system."

"I would ask that you, too, rely on the Egyptian justice system... if the judges decided the way they decided, they had a good reason."

(News agencies)

French bishop confirms Catholics seek Jewish pardon

PARIS (Reuters) - A bishop confirmed yesterday that France's Roman Catholic

Church would publicly ask for pardon next week for keeping silent when the wartime Vichy government passed its Nazi-style antisemitic laws.

Bishop Olivier de Berranger said the statement he would read out at Drancy, the Paris suburb from where Jews were sent off to concentration camps, would admit that the Church had failed to speak out to defend the Jews.

The Church announced last week it would make a statement on September 30 on "the attitude of the bishops of France during the war" but gave no details. It was widely expected this would be an apology for the hierarchy's general support for the wartime leader of German-occupied France, Philippe Petain.

"As the bishops of France, we are going to ask for pardon for the collective silence of France's bishops in those terrible years,"

Berranger told the weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur* in an interview.

"In the document, we try to respond to two questions... why didn't French bishops speak out publicly in the years 1940-1942... and didn't the Church, by remaining silent, fail in its mission to develop the conscience," he said.

Although some priests were involved in the French Resistance, critics say few in the top Church hierarchy opposed the Vichy government's collaboration with Nazi Germany.

The Vichy government promulgated laws against Jews on October 3, 1940, opening the way to their persecution and deportation. An estimated 76,000 Jews from France were deported between then and shortly after the D-Day Allied landing in June, 1944.

The Church statement will come just before ex-government minister Maurice Papon stands trial on October 8 on charges that, as a Vichy official in the southwestern city of Bordeaux, he helped send 1,560 Jews to death camps in 1942-44. Papon, 87, will be tried for crimes against humanity.

Asked why the Church took so long to issue its apology, Berranger said the generation that lived through the war had made a taboo out of France's collaboration.

Father Jean Dujardin, head of the Church's committee for relations with Jews, told the magazine "this attitude was the same as the one the French Republic took. It wasn't until the post-war generation, with men like Jacques Chirac and Lionel Jospin, that the republic finally recognized the nation's respon-

sibility."

In a historic shift two years ago, conservative President Jacques Chirac turned one of the darkest pages of French history by recognizing that the French state shared responsibility for deporting Jews to Nazi death camps.

It was the first time a post-war head of state had fully acknowledged France's role.

Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin said last July that persecution of Jews had left "an infamous mark" in French history.

Chirac's Socialist predecessor Francois Mitterrand, a Vichy official before joining the anti-Nazi resistance, insisted the French Republic, itself abolished by Vichy, could not be held responsible for Vichy's crimes and owed the Jews no apology.

Capital's Anglican School uncomfortable with missionary character

By HAIM SHAPIRO

A recent advertisement in *The Times Educational Supplement* has highlighted a struggle over whether Jerusalem's Anglican School, the city's only English-language school, is to have a missionary character and whether it is to survive at all.

The advertisement, by the Church's Ministry Among the Jewish People (CMJ), is for a new principal to take over in September 1998. It says that applicants "need to be motivated primarily by the desire to serve CMJ in their professional and personal capacities" and adds that "supporting local Messianic Jewish believers" will be a key aspect of the job.

According to Christian sources, the local school board, which oversees the school's day-to-day administration, is unhappy about the missionary orientation. It is especially unhappy, because the CMJ appears intent on installing a principal to promote its aims after telling the school that it wants to move out of its building on Jerusalem's Rehov Hanevi'im by 2001.

Rev. John Claydon, director of the Israel Trust of the Anglican Church (ITAC), the local arm of the CMJ, confirmed that the CMJ wants to relocate the school. It intends, he said, to lease an alternative property for a few months after which the school would become independent and continue to rent the new premises on its own.

Claydon said the CMJ does view the school as a missionary institution "in a sense," but he strongly denied that any missionary activity is directed at the school's few Jewish pupils, who are mainly children of businessmen in Jerusalem for a year or two. The school's Christian message is shared with the gentile pupils, he said.

The ITAC director also denied there are plans to sell the property, which includes the school building, a large house, and a large garden.

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